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**MAGAZINE**



**NORMAN LAMONT**

'Major's peace process is dead'  
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**WEEKEND**



**MONDAY**

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## Rapist kills girl on school trip

By Bill Farrant, Susan Bell, Joanna Bale and Stephen Farrelly

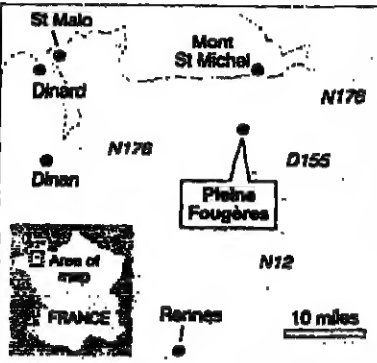
FRENCH police were last night hunting the killer of a 13-year-old English girl who was raped and suffocated while on a school trip to Brittany.

Caroline Dickinson, a second-year pupil at Launceston College in Cornwall, was killed as four girls slept in the room beside her in the Pleine Fougères youth hostel, 30 miles east of St Malo.

One of the four told police that she thought she heard the sound of Caroline's heels "drumming on the floor" in the small hours of Thursday morning, but assumed that the girl was having a nightmare.

Caroline had gone to sleep on a mattress on the floor between the two bunk beds occupied by her companions and her pyjama-clad body was found on the mattress at 8am the next day.

Last night the other children - 34 girls and five boys aged between 12 and 17 - were confined to the building and being interviewed individually by



police. Officers were also planning to conduct DNA tests on everyone staying at the hostel. Besides the party from Launceston College, another ten students were believed to be on the premises and they, too, were being questioned.

The school party, which arrived at Pleine Fougères last Sunday, was due home yesterday but will now return

when the inquiries allow. The children were accompanied by five teachers, and a further three travelled out with Caroline's parents, who were said to be "near collapse" after seeing her at a morgue in Rennes.

Ian Wroath, the school's headmaster, said his pupils were absolutely devastated by what had happened. He described Caroline as "a quiet gentle girl - a credit to the college."

One possibility being investigated is that she was killed by a prowler - one girl was said to have reported footsteps in the gravel outside the hostel at 4am. But Christian Couet, the mayor, said there was a night porter at the hostel and there was no evidence of a break-in.

"There has never been any problem there in the past. I went past there on the night she died and everything seemed to be as quiet as ever," M Couet said. "However the building is not locked up at night - it is like a hotel where people come and go."

Caroline's body was found when her room-mates woke. Ronald Frankel, the

British consul in Brittany, said: "One of the girls touched her in her bed and she was cold. There was also some discoloration." The girl immediately told her friends and fetched a teacher, who summoned police, ambulance crews and a doctor, but all attempts at resuscitation failed.

Caroline lived with her mother, Susan, a mile from the school. Her father, John, lives near by. Last night Mr Wroath said: "They are devastated. This is a terrible tragedy as anyone can imagine."

The headmaster added that parents of other children had wept when told of the tragedy at a special meeting on Thursday evening, although the other children on the trip had been coping admirably. He praised the teachers on the trip, describing them as "experienced and dedicated professionals", and said counsellors would be available to help pupils, parents and staff. "We will get them home as soon as we can."

Mr Frankel said that the teachers had tried to shield the children from the

worst, but many knew the truth. "We, the teachers and the Gendarmes in the incident room took the initial decision not to tell the pupils the girl had died. We thought it would be too much. I expect some of them must have realised the worst this morning when the parents arrived," he said.

The hostel, housed in two buildings, was built in 1984. It provides accommodation for 55 people and is popular with school groups because of its proximity to Mont Saint-Michel.

There are more than 200 youth hostels in France, all of which are responsible for their own security. There is no upper age limit, but children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

No overall rules on security in French youth hostels exist, although most are strict in controlling access. Some provide an overnight caretaker, some are kept locked and the guests are provided with a key, others have an entry-code system.

Town in shock, page 3



Caroline Dickinson: was sleeping in youth hostel room with four other girls

## Terrorist 'was allowed on TWA 800 at Athens'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A KNOWN Arab terrorist was reported yesterday to have boarded TWA Flight 800 in Athens, although he was removed by Greek authorities before the aircraft took off for New York and its subsequent fatal journey to Paris.

The report, renewing concerns about security at the Greek airport, came as American officials investigated suggestions that an Iranian group may have planted a bomb in the Boeing 747 which exploded and plunged into the Atlantic Ocean on Thursday, killing all 230 people on board.

Investigators are still waiting to recover the aircraft's two flight recorders from the waters near Long Island, but federal agencies said that a bomb was the most likely cause of the accident.

Reports received by the State Department said that a terrorist was mistakenly allowed on to the aircraft at Athens. "This is our only evidence of a breach in Greek security for boarding the

plane," a department official said. "We assume that the report is true and that his luggage was taken off the plane with him, but we are taking this seriously." However, a senior security officer at the airport denied all knowledge of such an incident.

Earlier this year, Washington placed Athens airport beside Lagos and Bogota on the highest risk category for passenger security and Americans have been warned against flying there.

The State Department official also said that a reliable informant had contacted the American embassy in Rome claiming that Flight 800 had been the target of Iranian extremists opposed to American sanctions against Tehran. "He is an Iranian exile who has proved a very serious contact," the official said.

The Clinton Administration made no formal announcement about the cause of the crash and Robert Francis of the National Transportation Safety Board, said: "There is no evidence of a crime yet." Nevertheless, the Boeing 747 is among the safest airliners in the world. The crew included veteran pilots with solid records and the weather was clear. There has been no evidence that the crew sent a Mayday signal.

Experts and federal officials said extreme engine malfunction. Continued on page 2, col 5



Jumping for joy: Annika Reeder, a member of the British gymnastic team, dreams of gold as she celebrates the opening last night of the Olympic Games in Atlanta

### Ulster peace process dead, says Lamont

THE former Chancellor Norman Lamont today breaks the Tory truce over Northern Ireland by calling on John Major "to recognise that the peace process is dead".

Mr Lamont writes in *The Times* that the Prime Minister should abandon the talks for a "completely new approach".

However, Mr Major is preparing to urge Irish leaders to show greater urgency at cross-party talks.

Process dead, page 20

### Hottest show on earth lifts off

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN ATLANTA

WITH the glitter of 1.6 million sequins, 5,000 fireworks and \$300 million of cold-steel security, the twenty-sixth Olympic Games were opening last night in sweltering Atlanta.

President Clinton was to declare the Games open after film footage of Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech was projected onto a large, makeshift screen. Four years ago the Barcelona Olympics attracted 13 world leaders, but Mr Clinton was the only head of government this time. Other notables on offer were the Deputy Prime Minister of Croatia, his Cana-

dian counterpart, and Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary. Last night's four-hour ceremony was featuring another great symbol of the Deep South: a fleet of chrome pick-up trucks chugging into the stadium in formation. It was perhaps an unfortunate choice, as pick-ups are traditionally associated with rednecks - good ol' boys whose idea of a grand night out is to dress up in white gowns and hoods and set fire to black churches.

For the athletes of a record 197 countries, the dream for the next fortnight will be of gold, although the thoughts of the Chinese team recently have also drifted to Peking

duck and fried rice. Yan Pingquan, Chinese team spokesman, complained about the food at the Olympic village. He said he was doing his best to encourage his athletes to eat, but they simply did not like the hamburgers and Southern-style ribs on offer.

An Irish 1,500-metre runner, Shane Healy, hopes his Games appearance may be seen by his mother Maureen, whom he has not seen since she quit the family home one night in 1972. "I have no idea if she is alive or dead," he said.

Simon Jenkins, page 20  
Leading article, page 21  
Games previews, pages 46-48  
Beach volleyball, Magazine

### Duke of York quits Navy for his family

By Emma Wilkins

THE Duke of York is to leave the Royal Navy in 1999 after nearly 20 years' distinguished service, the Ministry of Defence announced yesterday.

The Duke, 36, who reached his decision after discussions with the Queen, will take up his final posting early next year, working behind a desk in Whitehall.

It is understood that he will then play a more central role in the official life of the Royal Family, filling the void created by the departures of the Princess of Wales and his ex-wife Sarah, Duchess of York. The

Duke also wants to avoid long absences at sea that would prevent him taking a greater part in the upbringing of his daughters Princess Beatrice, and Princess Eugenie.

At the moment, the Lieutenant Commander Duke is in charge of training Lynx helicopter pilots, and he will continue in that role until October. In his new job, as executive officer at the Directorate of Naval Operations, he will be responsible for choosing helicopter equipment, including weapons, and balancing budgets.

Naval career, page 6

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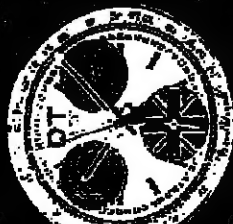
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**DALEY THOMPSON:**

He wrote Olympic history with two golds. Each one a thriller in 10 chapters.



OLYMPIC LEGENDS BY SWATCH.

swatch



THE TIMES  
ON MONDAYTHE GREAT  
SUMMER  
OF SPORTEVERY SUMMER  
10 P  
MONDAY

As the Olympic Games begin, David Miller and Simon Barnes head the top reporting team in Atlanta

## GOLF

Who will win the Open? John Hopkins and Michael Henderson on the final round

## CRICKET

Alan Lee on the England Test team to play Pakistan

17 PAGES  
OF TIMES  
SPORT

## SAILING

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ANGELS OF THE ALBION  
In the face of mutiny - the bravery of the women of the Raj

## PLUS

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## Lang tells postmen: drop strikes or lose monopoly

By Philip Bassett  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government sharply increased pressure on the postal union yesterday by announcing the suspension of the Post Office's letter monopoly from next Friday unless the present wave of strikes is abandoned.

The move, which came as the Post Office and the main postal union held talks at the conciliation service Acas, prompted an angry attack from Labour, which accused the Government of playing politics with the dispute to try to move towards privatisation. Ministers are becoming increasingly irritated by the present round of strikes in the postal service, the London Underground and locally by firefighters, and are determined to take action where they have the most direct leverage—in the Post Office.

A week ago the Government announced that it was going to consult the Post Office over the suspension of its statutory monopoly on carrying letters priced below £1. Yesterday Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, declared the monopoly would be suspended from July 26—the day of the next planned strike by the Communication Workers' Union—unless the action is called off. He gave no indication that the planned suspension for the monopoly would only be for the duration of the dispute, raising fears in the Post Office and the CWU that the Government will use the industrial action to end the monopoly permanently.

Mr Lang directly connected the Government's move with the dispute, and coupled it with an attack on the CWU: "The onus is now squarely on the unions. They can avoid the suspension of the Post Office monopoly by calling off their threatened strikes. If they do not, Post Office employees will know that it is their

bone-headed union which is responsible for the loss of the monopoly." Calling on Margaret Beckett, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, to condemn the postal strikes, Mr Lang said: "The truth is that Labour is in turmoil over strikes. It's clear that backing consumers by condemning union militants is still something that sticks in their craw".

Labour condemned Mr Lang's "inflammatory" intervention. Mrs Beckett said it was entirely wrong to make the announcement when the Post Office and union were at Acas trying to solve the dispute. "Ian Lang should stop playing political games."

John Major, touring Devon and Cornwall, accused Labour yesterday of being on a "sponsored silence" after Tony Blair and his shadow ministers failed to condemn outright the London Underground strike.

The Labour leader merely said he had already made his position clear while John Prescott, the deputy leader, who is sponsored by the rail union RMT, appeared to distance himself from the party's new line.

On Wednesday David Blunkett, the education and employment spokesman, said that the strike was "inappropriate" and that the parties should go to binding arbitration.

On Wednesday David Blunkett, the education and employment spokesman, said that the strike was "inappropriate" and that the parties should go to binding arbitration.

## Tory memo seals fate of private rail scheme

By Jonathan Frynn, Transport Correspondent

THE Government is to thwart a £3 billion plan for a private freight railway through the English shires that has angered Tory MPs whose constituencies lie along the route.

In a memorandum to Tory MPs published yesterday, the Government said it was "not persuaded" to support the proposal, which is due to be debated in the Commons on Wednesday. Although the Government is required to remain neutral while the scheme is being considered, the memorandum has almost certainly sealed its fate.

The move has infuriated the private consortium behind the scheme, Central Railway. A senior source said that it was considering legal action on the ground that the Government had broken the terms of the legislation under which the scheme was being brought before Parliament. "When a Conservative Government calls on people to invest in public infrastructure, as we are doing, it is absolutely crazy for them then to say 'by the way, we are going to pull the wheels off the train'," he said.

The proposals are for a 180-mile railway from the Midlands to the Channel Tunnel capable of carrying the equivalent of a million truck loads of freight a year. Central Railway has claimed that the railway will bring huge environmental benefits to Britain and can be built at no cost to the taxpayer, creating about 5,000 jobs in the process. It has already secured compensation deals with hundreds of householders whose property values would be affected.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats have said they oppose the scheme, and Labour MPs with a constituency interest are organising an informal whip on Wednesday. The timing of the vote, announced in the Commons last week, has made it more likely that the scheme will be defeated. It is planned for the end of a 90-minute debate at about 8pm on Wednesday, the same day as the Shadow Cabinet elections, ensuring

that most Labour MPs will be at Westminster. Opponents of the scheme had feared that, so close to the summer recess, many MPs would already be on holiday. The memorandum means that most MPs on the Government "payroll" will also oppose the railway, although formally it will be a free vote.

The memorandum said: "The project would transfer freight from road to rail, which is consistent with the Government's transport policies... The Government is not, however, persuaded that the proposals have such substantial merit as to enable it to recommend the application to Parliament. It has therefore been decided that its stance on the scheme is neutral."

Under the 1992 Transport and Works Act the Government is obliged to bring infrastructure projects deemed to be of "national significance" before both Houses. Only when they have been given majority votes in the Commons and the Lords can they proceed to a public inquiry.

James Pawsey, Tory MP for Rugby and Kenilworth, said: "There is no need to spend £3 billion when for £100 to £150 million you could have a better scheme on the West Coast main line with no environmental impact. I believe the House of Commons will vote it down on cost grounds and because it will cause environmental damage to a great number of people."



Pawsey: warned of environmental damage



Sunbathers were surprised to see Mr Major looking at them over the sea wall

## Pledge to end 'quota hopping'

By Michael Hornsey, Agriculture Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR promised yesterday to get tough with the European Union over foreign fishermen registering their boats in Britain to catch British fish.

At a meeting with Cornish fishermen in St Ives, the Prime Minister said that next week the Government would propose amendments to the Treaty of Rome to stop the practice of "quota hopping".

Fishing representatives, while welcoming the announcement, said they doubted Mr Major would be able to

get other member states to agree to the changes, which are to be tabled for discussion at the inter-governmental conference on the EU's future.

Mr Major met the fishermen for 45 minutes. He told them: "What I want is a series of changes to ensure that the common fishing policy works equitably, fairly for the British fishermen and others elsewhere, and that it is a workable system."

Later Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, said the proposed treaty changes would

enable the Government to insist that a "minimum proportion of the legal and beneficial ownership of vessels registered in Britain would have to be people naturally resident in the UK".

Interviewed on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*, Mr Baldry said the Government would also demand the right to stipulate that a "sufficient proportion" of the crews of such boats should be British and to require them to land a "substantial proportion" of their fish in British ports.

## TWA 800

Continued from page 1  
tion or other mechanical difficulties were the least likely explanation and pointed increasingly to sabotage.

At the Pentagon, a bomb was thought most likely, aviation officers were still examining radar readings mapping the aircraft's route after it left the gate at John F Kennedy Airport.

Initial reports of the crash had suggested that a surface-to-air missile may have been fired from a boat offshore. Numerous witnesses claimed they had seen what appeared to be another object in the sky, and the radar screen appeared to have a blip near the plane. But the Pentagon played down the reports, saying the aircraft was probably was out of range for most hand-held missiles.

## Labour attacks ITN on Major interview

By Arthur Leathley  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership attacked ITN yesterday over a decision to broadcast what it called a "fawning" interview with John Major before coverage of the TWA air crash.

Labour made a complaint to the Independent Television Commission, alleging that *News at Ten* contravened the programme code by not offering Tony Blair a similar interview. It also complained that the interview by Trevor McDonald was not conducted dispassionately.

The party claimed that Downing Street had ordered that the interview should lead

the broadcast but Mr Major's aides and ITN executives dismissed the suggestion as nonsense. Labour leaders also claimed that Downing Street had dictated that the Prime Minister be interviewed by Mr McDonald, whom Mr Major has invited to Downing Street, rather than Michael Brunson, the political editor.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, wrote to ITN complaining that the seven-minute interview was "a disgrace. It was neither objective nor probing. It was little short of a party political broadcast."

ITN admitted that it had had complaints from viewers.

Crash victims, pages 14, 15

## 500 women in smear test scare

A hospital has offered more than 500 women repeat cervical smear tests because doctors are unsure about the original results. Another 32 have been offered the chance to see a gynaecologist because of concern about the accuracy of their tests.

The James Paget Hospital in Grimsby, Norfolk, said last month that 8,200 tests dating back to 1993 were being re-examined because of doubts about their accuracy. A member of the hospital's screening staff has been suspended.

## Libel case won

John Kennedy, a prospective Tory parliamentary candidate, won his High Court libel action against Brian Wilson, Labour's campaign manager, and David Hill, chief press spokesman. They agreed to pay substantial damages over a press release alleging Mr Kennedy had "links" with Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian-Serb leader.

## Widow's victory

Margaret McTear, whose husband died of cancer three years ago, has won the right to sue a tobacco company for compensation. The Court of Session in Edinburgh yesterday rejected Imperial Tobacco's attempt to make Mrs McTear, of Ayrshire, put up £2 million as a security bond before the case could go ahead.

## Bombs inquiry

Nine men arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act on Monday were being questioned last night. Eight were being held in London and one in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. Seven of the detentions were made in London when police recovered bomb-making equipment. The two other men were arrested in Birmingham.

## Dons accept cash

Dons at Cambridge have voted overwhelmingly to accept a £1.5 million donation from the tobacco giant BAT Industries. In a three-week ballot, 1,128 members of the university supported the sponsorship of a chair in international relations, with only 583 opposing it. More than half of the academic staff voted.

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SAVINGS



THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 20 1996

# Death of girl on school trip leaves town in shock

By JOYNA BALE  
in LAUNCESTON

THE parents and pupils of Launceston College struggled to come to terms with the idea that a 13-year-old pupil could be murdered on a school trip.

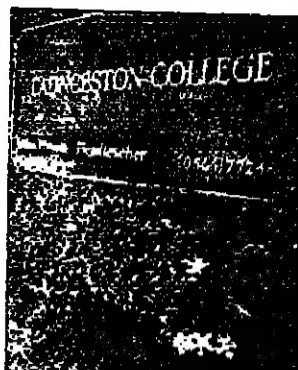
Many mothers were near tears as they came to collect their children from the school yesterday. With memories of Dunblane and the Wolverhampton machete attack still vivid, the rape and murder of Caroline Dickinson was another reminder of the vulnerability of their children.

Parents of the pupils on the French trip will have to wait until police have finished interviewing the children before they are reunited.

One woman, who was collecting her 12-year-old daughter, said: "This really is every parent's nightmare. When you send your children off on these trips abroad, you pray they won't get into any kind of trouble or danger, so it's always a relief when they come back."

"I just feel so sorry for Caroline's parents. She was so young. I expect it was her first time away from home, and it's just terrible to think that she won't be coming back alive."

Almost every resident in the ancient market town of Launceston, Cornwall, was touched by the tragedy. A former pupil, Suzannah West, 21, laid



The college is the town's only secondary school

a small floral tribute to the dead teenager outside the school and said: "It is the only secondary school, so every child and parent will know someone at the school."

Miss West said her father had been a teacher there for 30 years. She added: "I went on one of the trips to France eight years ago. They are recreational, and a bit of a jolly. You pay for the trips yourself, and when I went we stayed in chalets in the grounds of a chateau with four girls to each room."

"The whole school and staff go on these trips at some point. They are pretty cheap, but good fun."

Caroline lived with her mother, Susan, and younger sister in a Victorian terraced cottage on the edge of the

town, which stands on a hill overlooking the River Tamar, near the border with Devon.

Neighbours in the quiet street spoke of Caroline as a "lovely girl, of whom any parent would be proud". One woman said: "She was a pretty girl with long, blonde hair — quite tall and striking. Her little sister doted on her and would follow her everywhere. They would often play together in the park across the road."

"We can't believe this has happened. In this part of the world children grow up care-free and can often be quite naive compared with kids from the city. So it has really shocked everyone to the core."

"Her mother must be beside herself with grief — to wave your daughter off on a school trip only to be told a few days later that she's been raped and murdered in her bed is just so horrific."

The death came during a peak period for school trips — just before the summer holidays. Northern France is a popular destination.

More than one million trips are organised by English schools every year. The Lyme Bay canoeing tragedy and a fatal MI minibus crash have led to stricter safety regulations. But there are few national guidelines. The onus is on local authorities and individual schools set their own.



Police at the youth hostel in Pleine Fougères, northwest France, where the Plymouth girl Caroline Dickinson was found murdered

## Area that thought it was far from danger

By Bill Frost

A PARTY of 40 children arrived at the small town of Pleine Fougères last Sunday for a school trip that should have been as removed from danger as is possible. The setting — where Brittany meets Normandy was idyllic.

Pleine Fougères nestles in countryside far away from any large town or major road.

The town, where Caroline Dickinson, 13, was raped and murdered, was chosen as a base for school trips because of its charm and its proximity to historically important tourist sites like Mont St Michel.

Pupils from Launceston College have been coming here for three years

and are liked for their good manners, said the owner of the Hotel des Voyages.

Christian Couet, the mayor, said last night the town was deeply shocked by the murder: "This is such a quiet place" he added, shaking his head in disbelief at what had happened.

About 2,500 people live in the town which is surrounded by some of the best farming land in the region. Now the fields of ripening corn have been ruffled by the rotor blades of a police search helicopter.

Yesterday in the square, a few townspeople stood in a silent group watching police come and go from the Auberge de Jeunesse where Caroline's classmates and their teachers were

being questioned. Otherwise, the narrow streets lined with low stone-built houses were quiet.

A senior spokesman for the Gendarmerie Nationale said crime was almost unknown in Pleine Fougères before Caroline's death. "This is the kind of town where children can play on their own at night. There are no drugs, no trouble," he said.

He said the pupils and their teachers had to spend last night at the hostel where the murder took place. "We cannot say when they will be allowed to leave. It could be some time though as they all have to be interviewed through interpreters."

Last night local people delivered flowers to the hostel as the questioning continued. One 13-year-old local girl said: "This is the worst thing that has ever happened in this town."

The search has gone house-to-house with almost 100 officers drafted to help in the hunt for the killer.

No children played in the blazing afternoon sunshine, there were no old men on their favourite chairs outside the Hotel des Voyages.

As the press descended on the town, police erected crowd control barriers on all approach roads to the Auberge de Jeunesse.

Louis Thébaud, president of the association that runs the youth hostel, said last night that the hostel would continue to function normally.

## Handbag thief, 19, given life sentence

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A JUDGE jailed a 19-year-old handbag thief for life yesterday, saying that he felt obliged to protect the public from the "predator" for as long as possible.

Ragbir Singh Digwa had just been released from a two-year sentence for three robberies when he knocked Nicholas Mann to the ground and snatched her bag, Winchester Crown Court was told.

Judge Tucker, QC, told Digwa that he seemed certain to reoffend within days of leaving prison. "I feel obliged, awesome and terrible as it may be, to take a course that will ensure that you will not be released on the public until those who have the ability and time to monitor you can put their hands on their hearts and say this man is no longer a danger to the public."

Digwa, who denied robbery, will serve his sentence at a young offenders' institution until he is 21, when he will move to an adult prison.

Ms Mann, 26, of Shirley, Southampton, was pulled backwards onto the pavement by Digwa during the attack on New Year's Eve. She was not hurt but was deeply distressed, the court was told. Her purse contained £60.

The attack was the latest in a line of similar offences, which began when Digwa was 13. Philip Statman, for the defence, admitted that Digwa, an unemployed drug addict, had rejected opportunities to rehabilitate himself but appealed for leniency.

Judge Tucker, 66, is well known for his tough stance on law and order. Two months ago he jailed a sex attacker for 27 years.

James Hill, Conservative MP for Southampton Test, said: "The judge is to be congratulated for his strong stand against street crime."

## Close denies that ball-tampering is acceptable

By TIM JONES

THE former England cricket captain Brian Close had some blunt things to say about his fellow team member Geoffrey Boycott yesterday when he gave evidence to the jury considering allegations against Imran Khan, the Pakistani captain, of libel.

Questioned by George Corman, QC, for Imran, Close said he disagreed with Boycott's reported views that ball-tampering had become an acceptable practice which he had seen many England players doing.

CARMAN: Is he a friend of yours?

CLOSE: He was a colleague.

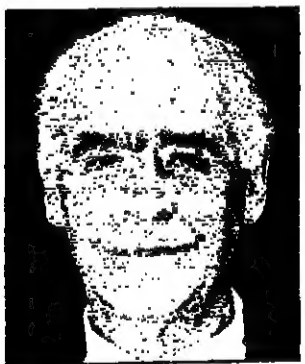
CARMAN: You would say he is an honest man, wouldn't you?

CLOSE: I wouldn't like to answer that.

CARMAN: Were you surprised by what Mr Boycott was saying?

CLOSE: Knowing his personality, I am not surprised. He was full of bravado, making assumptions that were wrong.

Close was one of several former England cricketers who gave evidence to the court yesterday in the libel action brought by Ian Botham and Allan Lamb against Imran. They are suing over an interview printed in *India Today*



Close disagreed with Boycott's views

magazine which they say called them racist, uneducated, and lacking in class and upbringing. Botham alone is suing over a story in *The Sun* which, he says, accused him of ball-tampering.

Mr Corman asked Close: "Have you heard some players find ball-tampering to be acceptable practice?"

Close said: "If it has happened, it is frowned on by most players."

Close said he had been involved in matches where he had seen bowlers trying to push balls into shape. "I have seen umpires use coins to press the seam back into shape; there is nothing wrong with that. It is when you deface it, it is wrong."

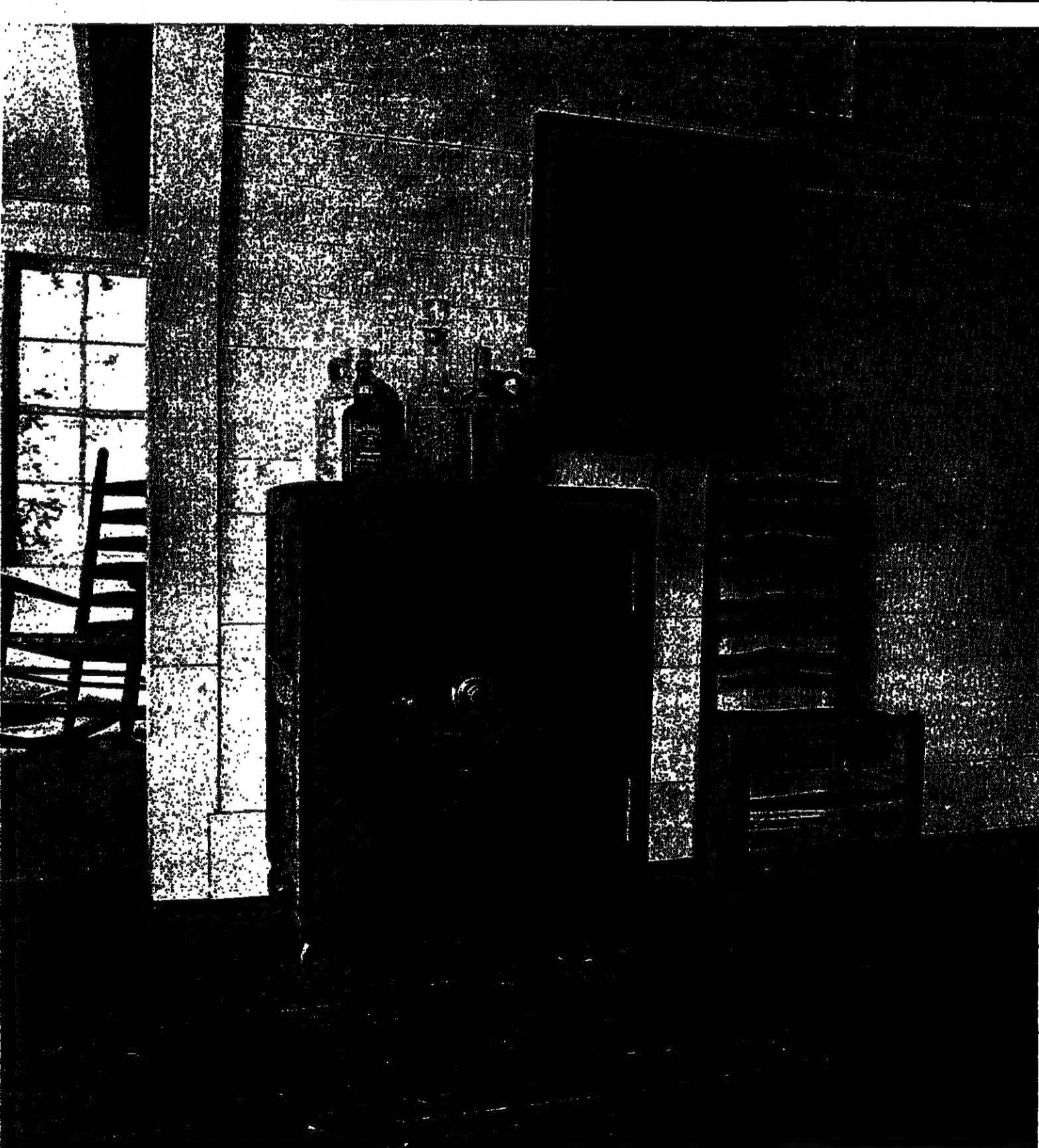
Lamb yesterday told the jury that he deliberately had broken his contract because he feared the sport's governing authorities were prepared to ignore allegations of ball-tampering by the Pakistani team. Lamb, who also captained Northamptonshire, admitted he had been fined £1,000 by his club and £6,000 by the Test & County Cricket Board after writing a newspaper article about Pakistani ball-tampering during a Test Match.

He said he knew he should have sought permission before writing the piece. "I knew it was a breach and I did it deliberately because I wanted it brought out into the open."

Lamb claimed the whole England team knew the Pakistani side were tampering with the ball.

John Emburey, the former England bowler, told Charles Gray, QC, for Botham and Lamb, that he had never known Botham tamper with a ball or do anything contrary to the laws of cricket.

Imran denies libel. The case continues.



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

## Cover-up for spirit world as ghost-hunters raise the roof

By AUDREY MAGEE  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A COAT of paint on an old shed roof was last night hoped to be the end of a mass outbreak of ghost-spotting that has brought crowds to a council house near Dublin.

It started five nights ago after Charlene Hughes, 12, camped in the garden of her home with a friend Michelle Doyle, 11. They claimed to have seen ghostly figures dancing on the garden wall. Charlene's father Vincent camped in the garden for the following days, and also saw shapes which moved up and down the wall before disappearing into the distance of the Pinewood estate.

As word spread, a small

crowd gathered in the garden of 68 Pinewood Green Road. By Thursday night, it had swelled to about 400. The hours following pub closing are the most popular, although the build-up begins at 10pm and most stay until 3am.

On Thursday night, a spook sleuth arrived on the scene. Sandra Ramjani, a psychic psychologist, said there were no ghosts. The shimmer resulted from car lights reflecting off the galvanised roof of a next-door neighbour's shed. Last night the neighbours painted the roof, hoping to keep the crowds away.

The shed belongs to Josephine Lynch, who complained that spectators as old as 70 had been traipsing

through her flowerbeds and standing on her car to get a view.

She said: "You can not go to bed because you do not know what damage these people are going to do. It is a complete invasion of our privacy."

Mr Hughes agreed: "I'm fed up with the crowds thronging into the estate and staying till around three in the morning, making it impossible for the residents to sleep."

Crowds are still expected to arrive over the weekend, hoping that sightings may continue. One local policeman said the spectacle had evolved into an evening's entertainment. It was somewhere to go after the pub. He added: "And you always see things better after a few pints."





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EXHIBITION

Crash

BBC was...  
for Maxwell

School run by...



## Council says there were very strict and clear rules about using busway

# Crash bus driver 'ignored signs'

BY KATE ALDERSON

THE driver of a double-decker bus that crashed into a low bridge, injuring 50 schoolchildren, had taken a route restricted to single-deckers and apparently ignored a "no right turn" sign and failed to observe a low bridge warning, council officials said yesterday.

Highway experts from Cheshire County Council said that the busway at Runcorn was open only to single-deckers, local buses and permit holders. Children said they shouted to the driver that he was going the wrong way. One boy told his classmates to duck as the bus approached the bridge.

Sixty-five children aged 10 and 11 and five adults from Palace Fields Primary School, Runcorn, were returning from an end-of-term trip to Waterworld in Stoke-on-Trent when the accident happened at 5.40pm on Thursday. The top of the bus, full of children singing songs, was ripped off.

The bus is owned by Dobsons of Northwich and was driven by Geoffrey Bell, 41, an experienced driver.

Four weeks ago a double-decker bus operated by another company collided with a low bridge on a different stretch of the busway. The upper deck of the bus, which was empty after dropping off a party of schoolchildren, was ripped off.

Peter Cocker, the county engineer, said that the busway had been used for 20 years. "We have very strict, very clear and very well-known rules about who can and who can't use the busway. Only registered bus services are able to use the busway. To register an operator must be providing a regular bus service with single-decker buses. One-off operators, tour companies and occasional users cannot register and are therefore banned from the route."

A council spokesman said the crash bus had almost certainly ignored this rule, driven through a "no right turn" sign to enter the busway and failed to observe a "low bridge" sign. He said each section of the busway was clearly signed to draw attention to the low bridges and the fact that double-deckers are banned. The busway has more than 40 bridges, 11 of 9m high.



Lindsey Hayes, 11, in hospital yesterday, and Ryan McGibbon, 10, who shouted at classmates to duck as the bus headed for the bridge



Five children are still being treated in Warrington District General Hospital. One has a cheek fracture and is undergoing post-operative care. Four have cuts, including one with serious head cuts, and are in a stable condition. Craig Hinkins, the deputy head, is being treated for cuts.

Ryan McGibbon, 10, was sitting at the front of the bus's top deck when the crash happened. He said: "Mr Hinkins said, 'Look children, doesn't the bridge look very low.' Everyone was shouting that the driver was going the wrong way but he said it was a short cut."

Ryan told his classmates to duck while Mr Hinkins pulled children to the floor. "People could have died," Ryan said. "The roof just caved in. Lots of people were crying and I let others get off before me and helped them down the stairs."

Jamara Kugawa, 11, who underwent minor surgery for cuts, said: "I didn't think we were going to make it. The bridge was not big enough. I was saying the bridge was too small. I thought the bus was going to blow up."

David Cracknell, Cheshire's director of education, said

Dobson's had been chosen from a list of recommended contractors who complied with specifications and were competitively priced. The council regularly used the company for journeys from home to school. Mr Cracknell said he would review their relationship after the police

accident enquiry. Ronald Dobson, 73, managing director of the small family bus firm, said that Mr Bell was an experienced driver who had been with the company for about four years. The company, which had eight single-deckers and two double-deckers, always gave route instructions to drivers but did not tell them exactly how to get into towns because one-way systems constantly changed.

"That's why we use what we consider to be experienced drivers, to use their own knowledge to find their destinations," he said.

Mr Dobson said he ran a single-decker service on part of the busway, a service that was registered with the Traffic Commissioners in Manchester. He added: "All of us at Dobson Buses Ltd are extremely distressed to hear of the accident involving one of

our vehicles. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to all those injured and to their families.

"At this stage it is unfair to speculate on the reason for the accident and we do not yet know why the bus driver went on to the Runcorn busway at that junction."

The county council said last night they wished to make it clear that Dobson's buses were a respected contractor with the council and the authority would have no compunction in hiring Mr Dobson's company.

Superintendent David Smith, divisional commander of Cheshire police, said he was "obviously concerned" that there had been two similar accidents in such a short time. He said the bus driver would be interviewed by police today and investigating officers were liaising with the Ministry of Transport.

All of us at Dobson's Buses Limited are extremely distressed to hear of the accident involving one of our vehicles. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to all those injured and to their families.

At this stage it is unfair to speculate on the reason for the accident. However the company will co-operate fully with the official enquiry into circumstances leading up to this terribly sad accident.

A notice of regret outside the bus company depot

## Lilley may cut off fuel bill support for claimants

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER LILLEY suggested last night that he might end direct debit payments to benefit claimants for fuel and water bills in an attempt to save £15 million.

In future, people on income support who fail to pay their own bills risk having their fuel supplies cut off. Labour immediately attacked the scheme, which was disclosed in a parliamentary answer yesterday.

At present, if a benefit claimant fails to pay his or her bills, the Social Security Department automatically deducts the payment from income support benefit and pays it to the utility company. But Mr Lilley has become increasingly concerned that his department is turning into a debt collector for the utilities, a job which now costs the government £15 million.

The Social Security Secretary announced that he would review the scheme, after a sharp rise in take-up despite cuts in fuel prices. The number of direct-payment deductions had risen steadily from about 100,000 in the late 1970s to over 500,000 now, it said. "Yet in recent years, although water prices have increased, fuel prices have fallen or remained stable."

Chris Smith, Shadow Social Security Secretary, described the move as "another mean-minded measure" from Mr Lilley. "Scrapping direct pay-

ments hits directly at the poorest people in the country and will make it much harder for them to organise their family finances in order to meet their bills and stop having basic services such as gas and electricity cut off."

Mr Lilley's plans to privatise the administration of child benefit and other payments brought the threat of industrial action from trade unions, who said that members might be advised to withhold information from private firms invited to tender for the project.

Opposition parties pledged that they would do what they could to stop the privatisation going ahead. Labour is to hold a debate on the issue next Tuesday and the Liberal Democrats are pressing for a Commons statement from Mr Lilley on Monday.

The Social Security Secretary further announced that three companies were being invited to tender for the administration of the Child Benefit Centre in Washington, Tyne and Wear. In addition, he disclosed that three companies would be appointed to work with the Benefits Agency in running benefits delivery in Yorkshire, the West Country, East Anglia and London for 12 months.

The moves are part of the Government's drive to cut the £3 billion cost of handling social security benefits by 25 per cent - saving £750 million.

## Lottery cash to fund Stonehenge centre

STONEHENGE is to become a £65 million theme park using private investment and lottery cash. The plan includes a visitor centre about a mile from the site with a virtual reality tour, shops, restaurants and a monorail to the stones (Peter Foster writes).

English Heritage, which is responsible for the monument, will for the first time use the Government's Private Finance Initiative, under which business puts up part of the money. The centre, with 8,000 square metres of floor space and parking for 3,000 cars, is expected to attract 1.8 million

visitors a year, nearly double the present number. Finances permitting, work should start next year and be completed by the end of the decade.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, said that private money would be used to build the centre and lottery money would fund a surrounding 4,000-acre park.

Opponents, however, believe that the plan will destroy Stonehenge's mystical appeal. Paul Sample, a Liberal Democrat councillor, said: "This abhorrent commercialism is out of keeping with what people want."

## BBC was fined £10,000 for Maxwell comments

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE BBC and the makers of the television quiz show *Have I Got News For You* have each been fined £10,000 for contempt over scathing remarks by its presenter, Angus Deayton, about the sons of the late publishing tycoon Robert Maxwell.

A reporting ban on the contempt proceedings, which were heard in May, was imposed by two High Court judges, but it was lifted yesterday after an application by *The Times*.

The BBC and Hat Trick Productions were accused of contempt by the Attorney General after Deayton called Kevin and Ian Maxwell "heartless, scheming bastards". The remark was

broadcast on BBC2 on April 29, 1994, six months before their trial for conspiracy to defraud Mirror Group pensioners was due to start.

Solicitors for the two brothers protested to the BBC the following day, asking it to delete that and other offending material before the programme was re-broadcast that night. But, after BBC lawyers were consulted, no changes were made.

Lord Justice Auld and Mr Justice Sachs were told in the High Court on May 24 that the programme amounted to "a calculated deliberate act to challenge the courts to do something about it".

The Maxwells were cleared of all charges after an eight-

month trial which eventually started in May 1995, but Kevin will face a second trial for fraud later this year.

After seeing a recording of the programme, the judges imposed a contempt of court order banning reporting.

The words complained of arose during a round called "The odd one out" in which contestants are asked to explain why one of four photographs is different from the others. One featured angry Mirror pensioners.

Deayton said on the programme: "All have profited from misfortune except for the Mirror pensioners... no mentioning no Maxwells, er, names. The BBC are in fact cracking down on references to Ian and Kevin Maxwell just in case programme makers appear biased in their treatment of these two heartless, scheming bastards."

After the show's closing credits, the cameras showed an exchange involving Deayton and the two regular panellists, Ian Hislop, Editor of *Private Eye*, and the comedian Paul Merton, discussing the risk of contempt of court. Hislop said to Deayton: "Nothing personal Angus, but contempt of court has a statutory two-year term of imprisonment."

A combined audience of 6.14 million viewers watched the programme, which is partly scripted and then edited.

Leading article, page 21

## Foster pair win ruling on smoking

BY LIN JENKINS

A COUPLE threatened with losing the child they had fostered for five years because they smoked have been told that she can remain in their care.

They have been looking after the ten-year-old girl, who suffers from cerebral palsy and asthma, for three days a week since her condition and tantrums proved too much for her natural parents. They applied to take the girl full-time because she disliked the care home where she spent the rest of the week. They were told by Dorset Social Services that they faced the choice of giving up smoking or losing the right to look after her.

A panel sitting in Dorchester ruled yesterday that they could continue with the present arrangement and a decision is yet to be made on their application to foster her full-time.

Robin Sequeira, director of Dorset Social Services, said that there was no strict non-smoking policy regarding foster homes and adoptions, but there was a preference for non-smokers where a child had respiratory problems. She said that the panel made its decision based on the care already offered by the foster parents to the child.

When the foster mother was first told that she faced losing the child, she called the threat "an act of cruelty" and said that the girl would not understand why she could not stay with them.



Panellist Hislop, left, and presenter Deayton

## School run by cult tests pupils for HIV

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A BOARDING school was strongly criticised yesterday for making its 50 pupils have regular tests for the Aids virus.

All pupils and staff at the £1.925-a-term Osho Ko Hsuan school, in Chawleigh, north Devon, have an HIV test at the start of every term. A swab of saliva is used. The school also requests that all visitors using their facilities bring a certificate stating that they are HIV-negative.

As Aids charities condemned the policy, Suvedra, the Headmaster, said that the school had a duty to protect its pupils and others "because we are not

sure exactly how the virus is spread. We have a policy of strict hygiene." The school takes pupils from the age as five up to 16, although currently all pupils are aged between 11 and 16. They work for GCSEs and also study the teachings of Osho, formerly known as Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

This weekend the school is hosting a music festival. Leaflets advertising the event say the school is "an Aids-free zone" and state: "You will need an HIV-negative test certificate (no copies) not more than three months old."

Justifying the request, Mr Suvedra said: "It is our job to protect our children.

People at the festival will share shower facilities, toilets and cutlery, which could spread the illness."

Tom Lawson, of the Terrence Higgins Trust, a leading Aids charity, was appalled and said he had never heard of a saliva test for HIV.

The National Aids Trust said: "This whole policy is as appalling as it is unhelpful. The reality is that there is no evidence of HIV being spread through normal social contact."

The Department for Education said that it had no jurisdiction over the private school, but would intervene if serious issues arose.

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# THE SUNDAY TIMES MURDER IN THE FAMILY

As Shaun Russell mourns his wife and daughter, bludgeoned to death last week, Jeremy Howe reveals



how terrifying the nightmare was after random savagery hit his own loving family

News Review.  
The Sunday Times  
tomorrow

## How the tide of life changed for the dashing sailor Prince

By LIN JENKINS

DURING a naval career spanning almost 20 years, the Duke of York found that his job provided a welcome respite from the pressures of being a royal, and a fitting vehicle for his eclectic talents. He described himself as an ordinary junior officer who suffered the same pangs as everybody else about leaving his wife at home for months to cope alone. He once admitted: "I don't like it. Full stop."

In joining the senior service in September 1979, the Duke claimed it gave him a sense of purpose and provided an opportunity to be treated, in part at least, like any other officer. Despite reports that during his early days in the Navy the Duke was considered an arrogant young man, with a reputation as the playboy Prince, he matured to earn respect, popularity and affection from his fellow sailors.

In an inauspicious start, he is widely reported to have blundered in the mess at Dartmouth Naval College when early one evening he introduced himself to a Rear

Admiral with the words: "You can call me Andy." He was rebuffed with the icy reply: "And you can call me Sir."

He was taught to fly helicopters at RNAS Culdrose and presented with his wings by his father in April 1981 before joining the front-line 820 Sea King Squadron on HMS *Invincible*. Around the same time he was praised for his courage in rescuing a seaman who slipped overboard from a submarine in the Clyde.

By the time he served in the Falklands conflict the following year, his colleagues referred to him simply as "H" (for Highness). On one mission he acted as a decoy during an Exocet missile attack and took part in the rescue operation after the supply ship *Atlantic Conveyor* was hit.

He gained a reputation for joining in, whether it be at the bar drinking a Coca-Cola, or joining the singing of a gently mocking song penned by his companions. It was sung to the tune of the pop record *Prince Charming* by Adam



Flower of youth: home from the Falklands

and the Ants. One line went "Don't you ever, don't you ever, stop being Randy, showing them you're handsome". He described sonar dipping for mines as like watching paint dry: "It is 98 per cent boredom but, when you have a contact, 2 per cent excitement during which you can hear your own heartbeats."

When he docked in Port Stanley, he was delighted when he was able ring the Queen on the satellite telephone on board the Royal Fleet Auxiliary *Sir Bedivere*

which stood alongside *Invincible*. He said: "I made the call and she was in. It is about the right time in the evening. She was quite surprised."

Film footage and photographs of him with a red rose in his teeth when the ship sailed home is one of the enduring images of the war.

His marriage to Sarah Ferguson and his decision to join the general list as a career officer in 1986, and later sign on for a further 12 years, altered his role. After years as a helicopter pilot and helicopter warfare instructor at HMS *Osprey* at Portland, Dorset, he followed the natural progression of a career officer to work for his watchkeeping and ocean navigation certificates, essential if he was eventually to command his own ship.

He complained of the time away from home and that his leave was often spent on royal duties, but said: "You have to take it, otherwise the Navy could not exist."

In May 1988, he joined the Type 42 destroyer HMS *Edinburgh*, on which he gained his bridge watch and ocean navigating certificates. A year later

he was flight commander on HMS *Campbelltown* with responsibility for the vessel's two Lynx helicopters.

He returned home and continued his career on shore, at 829 Squadron HQ, Portland, then the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, before he was promoted in February 1992 to lieutenant commander. Nine months later it was announced that he was to take command of his own vessel for the first time, following in the footsteps of the Prince of Wales.

In December 1992 he graduated from the staff college at Camberley and the following April assumed command of the minehunter HMS *Cottesmore*. He filled his cabin with photographs of his estranged wife and his daughters. He said: "As a commanding officer you can get extremely lonely if you're not careful."

Since February 1995 he has been senior pilot of 815 Naval Air Squadron, based at Portland. He will relinquish this role on October 25, before taking up his new appointment on the staff of the directorate of naval operations.



The helicopter hero: later he spoke of loneliness

## Paparazzi arrests keep royal party out of the picture

By EMMA WILKINS

THE Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York were spending their holiday under siege yesterday after the arrests of three paparazzi photographers in the grounds of their French villa.

An Italian was held yesterday morning, following Thursday's capture of two French photographers in combat fatigues in the garden. Gunshots heard just before the arrests of the Frenchmen turned out to be Prince William practising clay pigeon shooting at the Le Clos de Meaux villa, near the village of Seillans, Var, in the south of France.

At least five officers from the Royal and Diplomatic Protection squad are staying at the villa to guard Prince William and Prince Harry and their cousins, the Princesses Eugenie and Beatrice. French police and dogs are patrolling the grounds.

The French photographers, Franck Doveri, from St Tropez, and Tony Fitoussi, from Paris, managed to sneak across woodland and through bushes to within ten yards of the pool where the Princess, the Duchess and their children had sunbathed earlier. "Continental paparazzi like

to get really close to their targets so they can use smaller lenses," one royal expert said yesterday. "The British are happy working through long lenses so they don't actually have to get up so close."

The pair, who were released from custody on Thursday night, face charges of trespass and intrusion of privacy, which carries a maximum fine of £40,000 and a one-year jail term.

M Doveri works with John Paul Dousset, who achieved his greatest scoop with his then partner, Daniel Angeli, in 1992 when they snapped the Duchess of York with her financial adviser John Bryan by a pool in St Tropez.

Among the journalists staking out the villa, which belongs to Paddy McNally, a millionaire ex-boyfriend of the Duchess, are a group of 25 French and Italian paparazzi and about six British freelance photographers. The British tabloids are well-represented.

The royal party is expected to remain at the villa until next week. Maurice Athanassiadis, the Mayor of Seillans, said: "I plan to send them a little note along with a bouquet of flowers."

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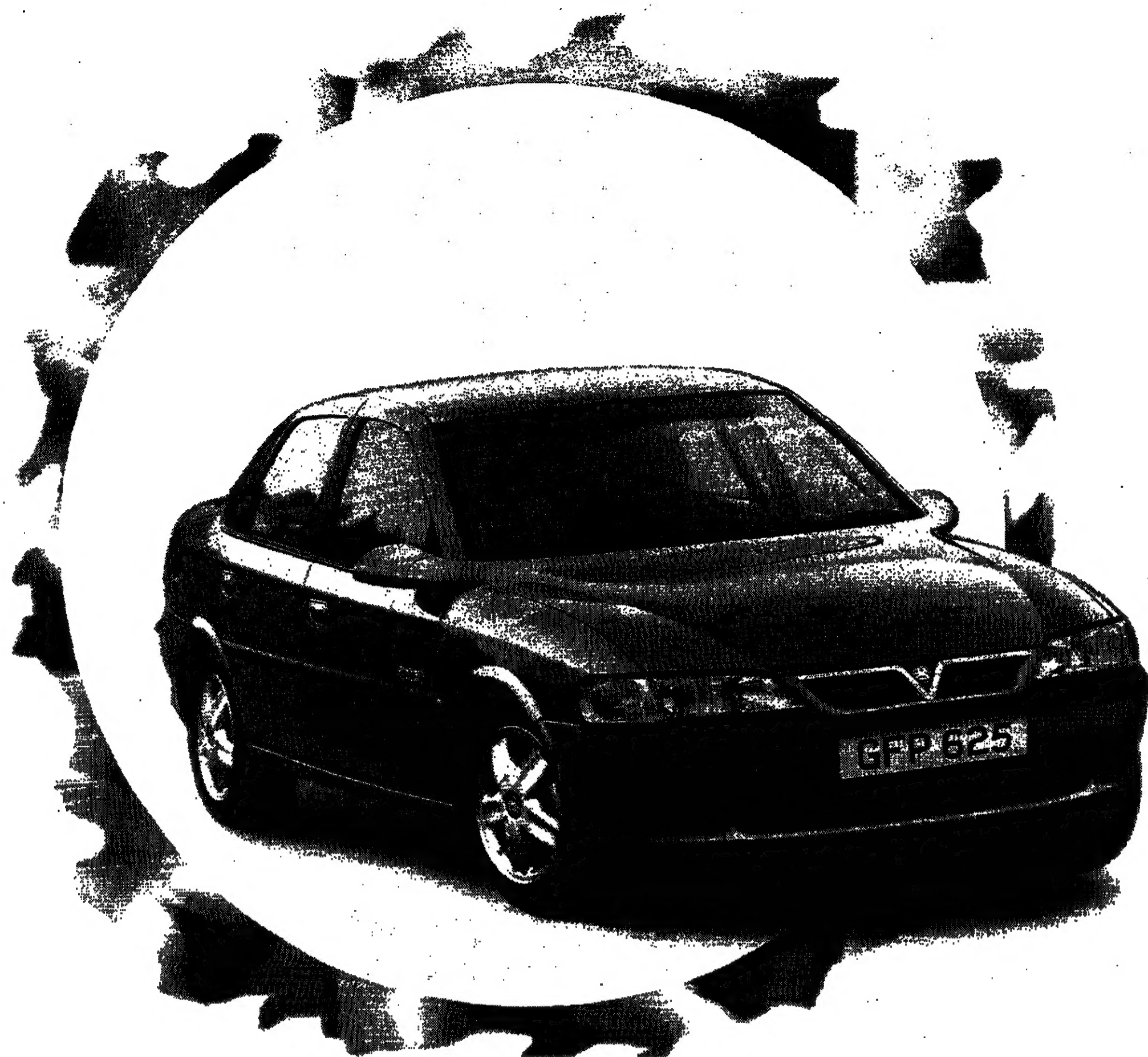
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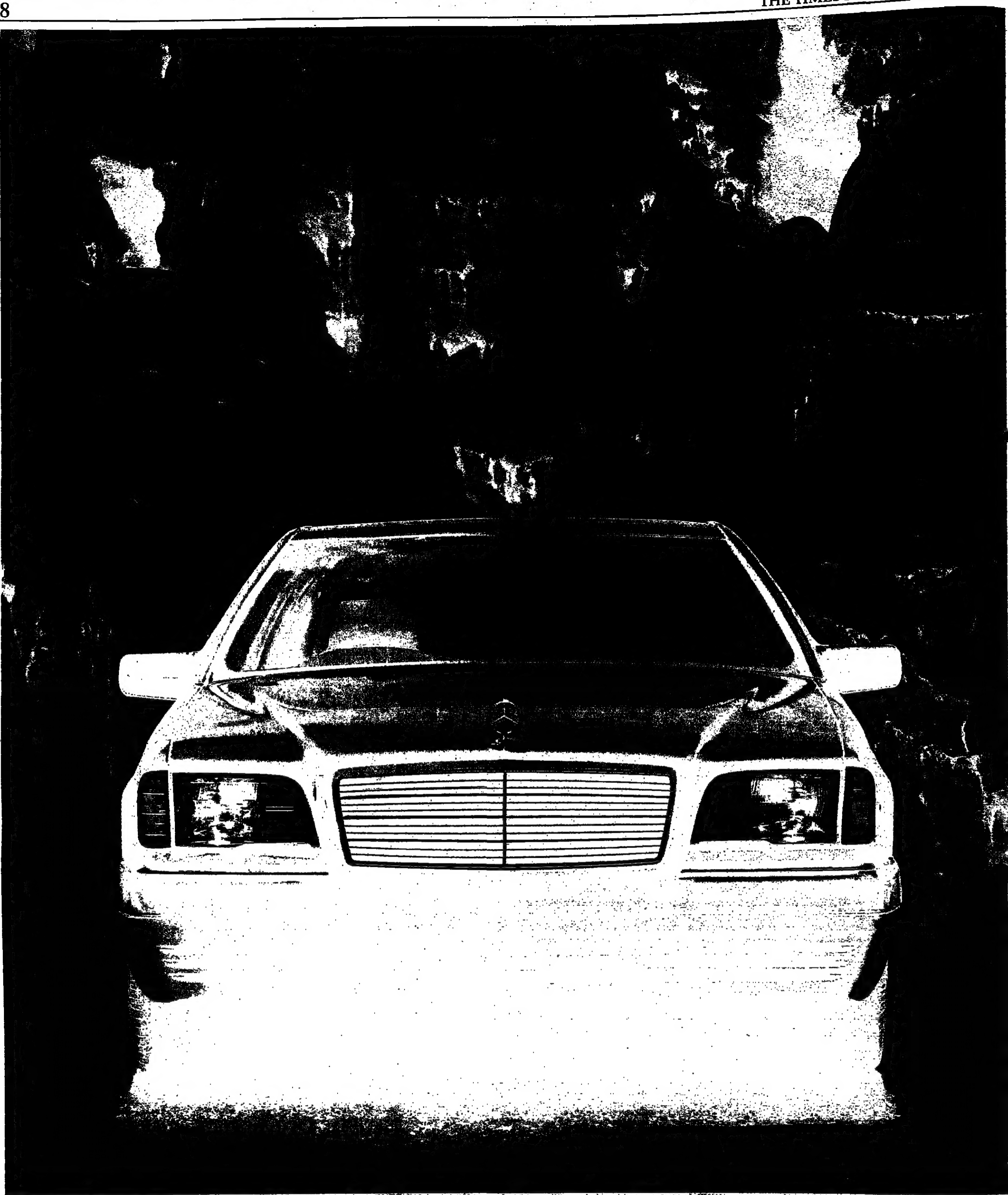
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## So, is the end of the world nigh?

On the subject of the car is there anything to add? Well, there is, about which is the best in the world. The end of the world, however, seems a more interesting topic.

Scientific opinion is divided. Some believe that a comet, 100,000 years before the 'Taurid Stream' - a procession of comets, 100,000 years at 46,000 mph - collides with the earth on one of its orbital passages. Even the reinforced high-bending steel pillars of a Mercedes S-Class would be unable to protect you if a rock the size of a small island landed on your roof. The after-effect of such an impact would be similar to an all-out nuclear war, creating a cloak of smoke and dust that would block the sun's rays and plunge the earth into the darkness of an ice-age. (Not much fun even in the automatically climate controlled interior of an S-Class saloon.)

Alarmist though this scenario appears, for others it is 'nano-technology' which will provide the seeds of self-destruction. Computer companies may soon be able to make machines no larger than an atom; machines so sophisticated that they

will be able to think for themselves. What if, through accident or malice, they decide to turn on their creators, harnessing the energy they find in the world's power plants? (Including, rather inconveniently, those in the Mercedes S-Class.)

At the present time, however, the only threat to the S-Class, if it is not inconceivable, is the prospect of a computer intelligence implanted in an S-Class, if it is not inconceivable.

As for the end of the world, however, is more likely to be something entirely out of our control. This will occur when the sun, a vast unstable hydrogen bomb with its clock ticking, finally explodes.

The bad news is that most scientists now agree this will definitely happen. The slightly better news is that forecasts of the event occurring in four billion years have recently been extended to almost five billion years (longer even than the life span of a Mercedes S-Class).

Scientists, crackpots and publicans continue to speculate on how the world will end. Whereas speculation about the car has already ended.



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## Shortage of donors holds up transplants

BY LIN JENKINS

A SHORTAGE of donor organs has led to a 17 per cent reduction in the number of transplants carried out in the first three months of this year.

A campaign will be launched next week to persuade more people to carry donor cards, or to join the donor register.

The shortage is particularly acute in the case of children. Ashley Taylor, 2, who was at the top of the waiting list for a heart transplant, died on Thursday before a suitable donor could be found.

His heart failed last week after he had survived three operations to remedy a congenital defect.

Doctors had said that he was unlikely to survive the week unless a donor could be found. Heart transplants in children are rare. Only nine were performed on children under six in Britain last year.

Of those only four involved donors under the age of six. Ashley's parents, Wayne Taylor, 27, a plastics factory foreman, and Kay Borlase, 27, of Telford, Shropshire, had made a public plea to parents to consider organ donation.

There are seven children currently awaiting heart transplants.

Narayanswami Sreeram, the cardiologist treating Ashley at Birmingham Children's Hospital, said that the case illustrated the lack of suitable donors for children. "Getting a heart is not an easy matter."

The shortage of all organs for transplant will be the focus of National Transplant Week, beginning on Monday. In the first three months of this year the number of transplants was 17 per cent down on the same period in 1995. Fiona Gravette, for the National Transplant Information Service, said: "There is a continuing desperate shortage of donor organs. With children it is even worse."

"Because of their size a child has to have an organ from another child and there are very few of them. An adult can have an organ from someone of any age."

## Health ministry to blame for CJD deaths, says judge

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE ruled yesterday that the Government was to blame for the deaths of a number of people who contracted the human form of "mad cow" disease after being treated as children with a growth hormone.

Mr Justice Morland said in a test ruling that anybody who began treatment from July 1977 and developed Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease could claim damages for negligence against the Department of Health, which took over responsibility from the Medical Research Council for the formerly experimental programme from that date.

The Government will inevitably have to pay damages to a number of bereaved families. Most of the plaintiffs began their treatment before 1977 — some as long ago as 1959 — and so have lost their claims for negligence.

But Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, will be urged to compensate all the victims and their relatives, including those whose treatment began earlier.

There is uncertainty about the position of the "worried well", who fear they will develop the illness and suffer a death the judge described as terrible to the victim and ghastly and utterly distressing for his family.

The Medical Research Council had been warned as early as 1976 that Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease could be contaminating batches of hormone extracted from the pituitary glands of corpses. It was not until three patients receiving similar treatment died in America in 1985 that the therapy was halted.

Sixteen people have already died from the incurable disease; three others are dying, and 1,900 are living with the knowledge that they could be infected.

The judge said at the High Court that, had doctors been made aware from 1977 of the risks, they would not have put

new children onto the treatment, although they would have probably let existing patients continue. "It is to be hoped that no more cases will occur, but realistically that is an optimistic hope," he said.

David Body, solicitor for the plaintiffs, said: "The Department of Health, in the name of humanity, should make ex gratia payments to all the families and individuals, whenever their treatment began." An early-day motion will be tabled in the Commons on Monday demanding compensation for all.

Tam Fry, honorary chairman of the Child Growth Foundation, which helps the affected families, described as iniquitous the payment by ministers of millions of pounds in compensation for cattle with BSE while they resisted any payments to families of CJD victims.

Ashraf Khan, whose son Bahram, a graduate engineer, died aged 27 last year, said: "When they knew the bells were ringing, why didn't they stop it? They should never have played with innocent young lives. They should have

at least told the parents that these were experiments."

Paul Andrews, 30, of Bromley, Kent, is one of the "worried well", who are seeking compensation for the psychological anguish of knowing they could be struck down by the incurable brain disease. He was expected to grow naturally to 5ft but reached 5ft 5in after receiving injections between the ages of 11 and 17.

"At the end of the day we were short and that was that. What is the difference between 5ft and 5ft 5in when you are alive? I could be dead this time next year and there is quite a high chance of that."

The judge, who heard 25 days of evidence, said many would be disappointed by his conclusions but that he must not be guilty of hindsight or let sympathy affect his judgment.

After being alerted to the CJD risk in 1976 by Dr Alan Dickinson, an eminent veterinary research scientist in Edinburgh, the Medical Research Council did not ask the advice of two expert professors until a year later.

Within a week, they said they were in the uncomfortable position of "not knowing how bad the worst is. Any clinician who uses growth hormone must be made aware of the gruesome possibilities."

But instead of telling doctors who were recommending young people for this treatment, information was kept to the chosen few, the judge said. "The clinicians were kept in the dark," he said. "An unwise philosophy pervaded both within the Department of Health and the Medical Research Council that the risk of slow virus contamination of human growth hormone was too awful to contemplate."

In ruling that only cases of CJD among people treated after July 1977 were caused by the negligence of the Department of Health, he absolved the council of any blame during the period before then.



Andrews: "I could be dead this time next year"



John Whalley yesterday with son Steven: crime career is over, the court was told

## Bungling burglar in box gets a year inside

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A FATHER who persuaded his son to mail him in a cramped wooden box was jailed for a year yesterday.

John Whalley, 53, tried to use the "Trojan Horse" scheme to get into a parcel depot, which he intended to burglar.

Instead he found himself stuck overnight at the wrong warehouse and was caught by a guard after leaving the 2 metre by 1 metre box for a walk. A jury refused to accept his defence that he allowed himself to be posted for a bet.

At Birmingham Crown Court, Assistant Recorder Alan Mainds said: "There is a danger of people applauding those who cheat others out of property by this sort of cunning means. I'm not going to fall into this trap."

Whalley's son, Steven, 22, was put on probation for 18 months. Both had been found guilty of conspiracy to burgle the City Link warehouse in Salford, Birmingham.

The court was told that the father, a former City Link employee, had convictions for burglary, dishonesty and motor offences dating back 40 years. His son left the box at Birmingham for delivery to City Link's parcel depot in



The box where the thief was trapped overnight

Stoke-on-Trent, but a manager decided against overnight delivery and it was kept in Birmingham. Inside the box police found rubber gloves, a knife, parcel tape, screwdriver, milk, Mars bars and a makeshift toilet.

Hugh O'Brien-Quinn, in mitigation, said that the father was suffering from depression. Before the trial in May he was seen wondering along the M5 "at the dead of

night, not knowing where he was". He added: "In the past two days, he was taken to hospital after an overdose. As far as his criminality is concerned, this is the end."

David Pearson, for the prosecution, had told the jury: "You will see a similarity to a Trojan Horse, when the Greeks besieged the city of Troy and managed to smuggle men in by leaving a large wooden horse outside."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### River takes second brother

Charles Hawkes, 25, drowned in the River Tees at Stockton, Co Durham, almost two years after his brother died on the same stretch of water.

Mr Hawkes, from Thornaby-on-Tees, vanished from the sight of his friends on Thursday afternoon after going for a swim. Police divers found his body two hours later. In August 1944 his elder brother Brian drowned near by after a boating accident. Police said the incidents highlighted the dangers of the river, which might appear safe but had strong undercurrents.

### Girls of note

Twenty-two choristers aged eight to 14 have been recruited for the first all-girl choir at Ripon Cathedral, North Yorkshire. Training and rehearsals begin shortly, with the aim of their singing at one choral service a month by November, increasing to one a week next year.

### Brewery blaze

An 18th-century timbered brewery shop in Levens, East Sussex, was severely damaged by a fire that destroyed handwritten records dating from 1790. Five adjoining shops were damaged before 75 firemen brought the blaze under control. Police are treating the fire as arson.

### Road rage death

A driver who knocked down and killed a pedestrian after losing his temper was jailed for 21 months by Newcastle Crown Court. Leslie Wood, 37, who was over the drink-drive limit, said he hit Lee Irving, 21, after trying to "prove a point" by passing a car that had cut in front of him.

### Black and white

A black gunman is believed to have used a skin lighter to try to make himself look white when he successfully held up a cashier at a NatWest Bank in Coulsdon, Surrey. A police spokesman said: "It is bizarre. There have also been cases of white guys blacking themselves up."

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Richard Branson and "Tracker" scan the horizon for hassle-free savings

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THE company's first product — an index tracking Personal Equity Plan (or PEP for short) — was created as a result of Richard Branson's frustration with the financial services industry. "I read the personal finance pages for 20 years but could never find consistently good performance or fathom out all the meaningless jargon," explains Branson.

### Jargon free zone

PEPs should be an integral part of most people's financial plans. But Virgin felt that their potential had never been realised — mainly because of their packaging. "We researched nearly 1,000 PEPs and then designed one to beat them," adds Branson.

"We found that the majority of people were simply put off by the way PEPs were shrouded in meaningless financial jargon."

Within 16 months of launch, Virgin's no-nonsense financial revolution had attracted over 70,000 savers looking for a well-balanced, conservative approach to stock market investment rather than chasing the thrills and spills of a speculative investment strategy.

### On the right track

Virgin's strategy is completely straightforward. It doesn't rely on costly, fallible fund managers attempting to guess which shares will perform best. The Virgin Direct PEP tracks the FT-SE Actuaries All-Share Index, which covers more than 900 of the largest companies quoted on the London Stock Exchange.

### Simplicity

Rowan Gormley of Virgin Direct picks up the story: "We've made it incredibly simple for individual investors to participate in the returns of the stock market while spreading the risk. The easy option is to leave spare cash in a current account, earning a pitifully low rate of interest. Most of us just can't be bothered to go through the hassle of looking for a better home for our savings, even though we know that it's the sensible thing to do. With history showing that shares tend to provide better returns than other types of investment over five years or more, our Growth PEP gives everyone the chance to reap the rewards."

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*Richard Branson*



## Former evangelists start network to aid victims of extremism

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A NETWORK of self-help groups called Fundamentalists Anonymous is to be launched by former evangelical Christians to help those who have left or are struggling to break free from the growing number of extremist churches.

The network will provide a haven for those trying to rebuild their lives after leaving the closed and sometimes frightening world of fundamentalist Christianity. It could also help those damaged by authoritarian groups such as the Nine O'Clock Church in Sheffield, where a powerful elite made it almost impossible for members to question the activities of its discredited leader, Chris Brain.

Evangelical groups now have a high profile, with growing influence in Parliament. The movement is one of the few growth areas in the churches today.

But Fundamentalists Anonymous is launched amid concern throughout the Church of England that, despite the advances of modern science and philosophy, many churches on the fringes of evangelicalism still preach that every word of the Bible is literally true. Their worship leaders can set a bewildering array of rules, such as eschewing the cinema and heavy metal music, aimed at protecting believers from the supposedly corrupting influences of 20th-century life.

The leaders believe in an awe-inspiring God, Hell and the Devil, and will sometimes incorporate bizarre and terrifying exorcism rituals in worship.

Some go so far as to dictate which clothing colours are acceptable, teaching that wearing black, for example, can be a symptom of possession. Many lay special emphasis on "sins of the flesh", preaching against homosexuality and pre-marital sex.

Although most of these churches are "house churches", operating in school halls or in members' homes, extreme fundamentalism can also be found at the heart of the Church of England. Fundamentalism is proving attractive to young people, especially those with no religious upbringing who want to socialise without the pressure of drink, drugs or promiscuity. It offers them a host of compelling certainties in an uncertain world.

Problems can arise when members of these churches challenge their extreme beliefs and encounter hostility and authoritarianism. Many leave church life completely, rejecting their faith as well as the organisation.

John Martin, former editor of the evangelicals' *Church of England Newspaper*, who has been involved with talks about the proposed network, said

one aim was to help such people to realise that it was possible to move on to alternative styles of Christian fellowship without abandoning their faith. "It will be a self-help network as opposed to an organisation that tells people what to do."

One of the three founding members, a young woman who preferred not to disclose her identity, said many of those who might benefit were from the mainstream Church of England evangelical wing. "When I was a teenager, I took evangelism on board completely. As I grew older, my problem became one of belief. But I have met other people who are very bruised by all the guilt that goes so often with evangelism."

The foundations for the network will be laid tomorrow at a seminar in central London, where former evangelicals will examine why so many people drop out. The Rev Donald Reeves, rector of St James's, which is heading the seminar, said: "Evangelicalism seems to be good at bringing people to personal faith, but not so good at taking them on from there. Disturbingly high numbers of new converts burn out, but their churches are too busy seeking more to notice."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 17



Bishop Hardy renewed his own offer to go if Dr Carey wished it. "We take oaths of obedience"

## Bishop of Lincoln urges sub-dean to resign

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Rev Robert Hardy, yesterday urged the cathedral's sub-dean to resign to end a bitter eight-year dispute.

The Dean of Lincoln, the Very Rev Brandon Jackson, has already said that he would resign provided that the sub-dean, Canon Rex Davis, went too.

Bishop Hardy said that the conflict at the 11th-century cathedral was "difficult and damaging" for the Church. Canon Davis should obey the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, and resign as he had asked. Canon Davis, who has refused to resign, was not available for comment.

The dean and the sub-dean, who are in their early 60s, were asked publicly to resign two weeks ago. Dr Carey described the conflict between them as a cancer in the body of Lincoln Cathedral and said that it was "a scandal dishonouring the name of Our Lord".

Dr Jackson, who was on holiday when Dr Carey urged the resignations, said that while away he had informed the archbishop that he was "already considering leaving if the sub-dean moved too".

But because Canon Davis declined to leave, Dr Jackson had advised the archbishop that he "did not propose to leave at that time". The dean said that the pressure on him and his wife, Mary, "to stay in Lincoln and resist the archbishop's call to go is very considerable and growing by the day".

Dr Carey, before departing for a month-long foreign trip last night, said: "I am grateful for the dean's positive response to withdraw provided the sub-dean does so."

Because cathedrals are autonomous and their clergy are protected by "parson's freehold" — the right to a job for life — neither Dr Carey nor Bishop Hardy can force the dean or the sub-dean to go.

Bishop Hardy, who offered his own resignation to Dr Carey last summer, said that he would still be prepared to go if Dr Carey told him to. "We take oaths of canonical obedience. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the head of our Church. If he said to me, 'Hardy, I think you should go, I would go. I would not even question it'."

The latest manoeuvring indicates that the battle at Lincoln is far from won. It began with a loss-making exhibition in Australia of the cathedral's Magna Carta and culminated when the dean was cleared of sexual misconduct with a former verger, Verity Freestone, last year.

## We must learn why we cannot know His ways

Dan Cohn-Sherbok

Next week Jews throughout the world will observe the Ninth of Av (Tishah B'Av). This was the day when the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the Temple in 586 BC and the Roman general Titus devastated the Second Temple in 70 AD.

As a sign of mourning, Jews are obliged to fast the entire day. Inevitably, in a post-Holocaust world, those catastrophes of long ago have become symbols of the destruction of six million Jews during the Nazi era. Tishah B'Av has thereby come to represent both ancient and modern calamities that have befallen the Jewish community.

While pious Jews have remained faithful to the belief in an all-powerful and compassionate God despite such tragedies, many Jews in the modern world have found it impossible to believe in a God of mercy. For those individuals Tishah B'Av has come to take on a new significance: it highlights the absence of God, rather than His abiding presence in the face of massacre and death. As the Jewish death-of-God theologian Richard Rubenstein has remarked: "When I say we live in the time of the death of God, I mean that the thread uniting God and man, Heaven and earth, has been broken."

The Jewish community is thus polarised between believers and unbelievers, all of whom are struggling to make sense of the calamitous history of the nation. Is there a solution to this dilemma? Throughout Jewish history there has been a recognition that there is no means by which human beings can understand the true nature of divine reality: this insight should pave the way to a revitalised theology of Judaism.

From biblical times there has been a conscious awareness that there is a fundamental distinction between God as He is in Himself and human conceptions of the divine. Scripture, for example, frequently cautions against describing God anthropomorphically. In rabbinic literature there are comparable passages which

suggest that human beings should refrain from attempting to depict God's nature.

In a similar vein, medieval Jewish philosophers such as Moses Maimonides argued that the ascription to God of positive attributes is a form of idolatry. In his view, positive attributes are only admissible if they are understood as referring to God's acts. Attributes that refer to his nature, however, are only permissible if they are applied negatively. Thus one cannot say what God is; one can only say what He is not.

Like those Jewish philosophers, Jewish mystics advocated a theory of negation in describing God. For these writers, the divine is revealed through the powers which emanate from him. Yet God as He is in Himself is the Ayn Sof (infinite) which is beyond human comprehension. Thus the greatest work of medieval Jewish mysticism, the Zohar, asserts that the Ayn Sof is incomprehensible. In that spirit the

18th-century scholar the Vilna Gaon stated that one can say so little about the Ayn Sof that one should not even give it the name Ayn Sof.

That recognition of the limits of human understanding can provide a basis for confronting the disasters that have befallen the Jewish people in ancient and modern times. God must not be reduced to human categories and then dismissed as irrelevant in the face of the horrors that have occurred to the Jewish community. Rather, we must acknowledge our incapacity to understand God's ways.

Tishah B'Av symbolises the tragic past of the nation, yet it should also call us to a recognition of human limitation in the presence of the holy. The Zohar tells of Elijah's supplication to God: "Lord of the Universe," he prayed, "You are higher than the highest. You are above all mysteries. No thought can grasp you at all."

□ Rabbi Professor Dan Cohn-Sherbok teaches Jewish theology at the University of Kent and is a visiting professor at the Universities of Middlesex and Wales

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## £2,000-a-day fee plan for civil courts is dropped

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A PLAN to impose pay-as-you-go court fees, in which people bringing claims in the civil courts would pay a daily hearing fee, has been shelved. It could have involved daily hearing fees of £2,000 in the High Court and £800 in county court.

The aim was to raise fees to a level at which the courts were self-financing. However, the plan was criticised as being likely to deter people from bringing claims and pursuing their rights.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, is committed to changing the present system, which is based on an "entry" fee imposed for issuing proceedings, but takes no account of the length of a case. Michael Huebner, chief executive of the Court Service, the agency that runs all civil and criminal courts in England and Wales, said that less radical proposals would now be brought forward.

Mr Huebner said that the need for a big increase in fees had been reduced after standard fees went up last autumn and brought in more funds than expected. There was a still a shortfall, however. The full cost of the civil courts was some £300 million a year, while £245 million was recouped in court fees.

The Lord Chancellor is likely to contemplate more modest proposals, possibly with some restructuring, but it would not be as fundamental, Mr Huebner said. "If we lose business because fees go up, that is a failing of the civil justice system."

A survey in the Court Service's annual report indicates that most courts in England and Wales are now meeting

their targets on waiting times and on the speed with which they commit defendants for trial, although some are still falling well short.

The courts' efficiency was tested against performance targets and the results, published for the first time yesterday, may eventually develop into a league table for the justice system.

Among the Crown Courts, Salisbury is the worst offender with only 48.8 per cent of defendants committed for trial within 16 weeks (instead of the 70 per cent target). It also has one of the highest average waiting times for defendants on bail, 21.8 weeks, and a high average waiting time for defendants in custody, of 16.4 weeks.

Liverpool is another poor performer with only 48.8 per cent of defendants committed for trial within the 16-week waiting time. Liverpool also scores badly in having one of the highest waiting times for defendants on bail, 22.4 weeks, almost double many of the other courts.

The figures partly reflect the courts' workload, with a smaller, less busy courts finding it easier to meet targets.

Mr Huebner said that the figures had to be treated with caution because there were often reasons why averages appeared to be particularly low. "However, we do think it right to publish the figures and show how courts are doing in meeting their targets."

The report also shows that the backlog of work in the criminal courts has dropped to its lowest level in nearly a decade, from 34,000 about 18 months ago to 23,000 now.

## Sophie's parents call for closer watch on paedophiles

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE parents of the murdered schoolgirl Sophie Hook said yesterday that her killer had been "a timebomb waiting to go off". Christopher Hook, 38, said: "The unfortunate thing for us, and particularly for Sophie, was that she was the trigger for that timebomb and it didn't need to be like that."

The Hooks, from Great Budworth, Cheshire, were speaking publicly for the first time since their daughter's killer, Howard Hughes, was jailed for life by Chester Crown Court for abducting her from a tent in her uncle's garden and raping her before strangling her and throwing her body into the sea. Mr Hook said that he and his wife, Julie, 35, constantly asked themselves the question: "Why Sophie? Why us?"

On Thursday police disclosed that they had been "keeping a close eye" on Hughes for 16 years and that he had been accused of assaulting several young girls and teenagers in the three years preceding Sophie's murder. Mr Hook said he felt strongly that the Home Office's proposals for a paedophile register should be put in place and he advocated displaying posters of offenders in their home towns.

"Several months after it



Julie and Christopher Hook yesterday. They called for posters of paedophiles to go on public display

happened I was told that Hughes was a timebomb waiting to go off. I firmly believe the Home Secretary's proposals going through currently should be extended. I believe that a statutory register of convicted paedophiles should be extended. Allowing the authorities to display posters

of offenders within the community is one possible step forward."

He also said that, in Hughes's case, life should mean life. "An innocent life has been destroyed. We are left with a life sentence ourselves."

Mrs Hook said that Sophie

had enriched their lives. "She was bright, vivacious, full of fun, extremely caring and very loving. This is how we remember her."

The Hooks have three other children, Jemma, 10, Joseph, 6, and Ellie, a toddler. "Naturally, all the children have been affected by the loss of

Sophie, each in their own way," Mrs Hook said. "They continue to include her in whatever they do."

Mr Hook explained their decision to take the children abroad for the duration of the trial: "Our children have been, and always will be, our prime concern and their

needs remain our priority." Sophie's uncle, Danny Jones, from whose garden she disappeared, had been seen in court during the trial and cried at the guilty verdict. Mr Hook said that he and his wife had been represented in court by members of both families and he felt that was sufficient.

Asked how her family had coped with their loss over the past 12 months, Mrs Hook said: "The deep pain and grief we have felt and will continue to feel is beyond words. We have somehow coped because we have every reason to believe that Sophie never knew of her suffering."

They felt no sense of victory at seeing Hughes jailed. Mr Hook said the verdict was "what we expected".

Mrs Hook's voice wavered as she spoke of the approaching anniversary of Sophie's death, on July 30. "Our 'if only's' will come flooding back in force, not that they ever go away. If only I hadn't agreed that the girls could stay. If only the tent had not been bought. If only it had been raining. They will go on and on for ever. Anniversaries are painful, but so is every other day."

Police said that the couple had agreed to speak yesterday on the condition that the media now left them alone.

## £3m for church bells to ring in millennium

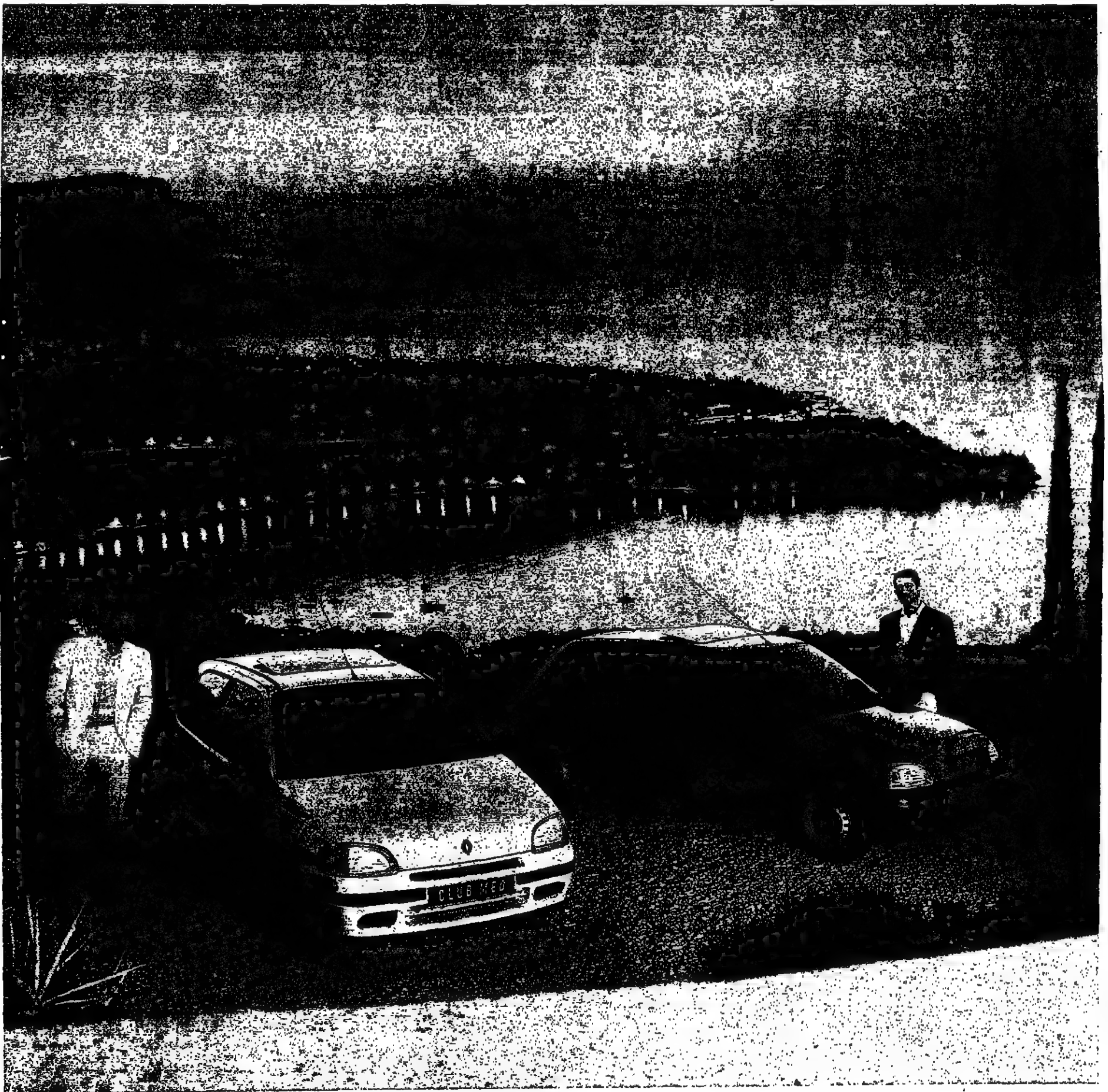
A PROJECT to restore or replace more than 100 church bells across the country to ring in the millennium has been promised £3 million (Peter Foster writes).

The Millennium Commission has earmarked the grant after an application by the Central Council of Bellringers. The scheme, which will cost a total of £6 million, will involve hanging new bells and restoring others that have long been silent. Lin Foxhall Forbes, an archaeologist, who managed the application to the commission, said: "Parishes have

been faced with difficult choices as congregations dwindle and funds are scarce. If you have to choose between patching a roof or restoring the bells there is little option but to repair the roof."

"Bells signify so many things: a wedding; the new year; VE-Day; the coming of war."

Funds will be allocated by the council to parishes and other groups, who are expected to raise 50 per cent of restoration costs. The council has already received more than 160 applications for funds.



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Papa is no help. Now he knows both models have front seat belt pretensioners, side impact protection and driver's airbag (optional on the Oasis), he's happy whatever his daughter decides.

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No, Nicole will just have to find another way of deciding. Any ideas?

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## Congress weighs new airport curbs while school grieves for lost pupils

## US security under fire as sabotage suspicion grows

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

WITH fears rising that sabotage destroyed TWA Flight 800, attention focused yesterday on America's continued lag in airport security despite the promise of improvements after Pan Am Flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie eight years ago.

At issue now is whether it was possible for terrorists to smuggle a bomb on board the TWA flight.

American airports are still open to unauthorised access, according to Mary Schiavo, a fierce critic of airline safety, who has just resigned in frustration as inspector-general of the Department of Transportation. She said her staff tested security at four of America's busiest airports and in 15 out of 20 attempts were able to enter secure areas unchallenged. When they repeated the exercise earlier this year, they breached security 40 per cent of the time.

Members of Congress summoned Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) officials for secret briefings on screening procedures for airline passengers and cargo. They were not encouraged.

"We're going to have to take

steps that may be costly and may involve inconvenience," said Larry Pressler, Republican chairman of the Commerce Committee. Other senators said security may have to be tightened to the point where it disrupts airline schedules and leads to a steep increase in fares.

A presidential commission investigated the Lockerbie

## TERRORISM

bombing, in which less than a pound of Semtex plastic explosive was hidden inside a cassette player in a suitcase that was transferred to the plane in Germany from a flight originating in Malta. The commission's recommendations were incorporated in the 1990 Aviation Security Improvement Act.

Not all those recommendations have been implemented. Advanced bomb detectors have still not been installed at all high-risk airports. Machines to detect plastic and liquid explosives, which do not show up on older X-ray machines, are operating only in Atlanta for the Olympics and

San Francisco. The advanced detectors cost about \$1 million (£660,000) each.

In another area of vulnerability, mail and cargo still fly on international routes with little screening, according to airline safety experts.

The FAA requires all US international carriers to inspect carry-on bags and to match a passenger for each piece of checked luggage. TWA has not disclosed whether these precautions were carried out before Flight 800 took off from New York for Paris on Wednesday.

Suspensions of investigators have fallen on Athens, from where the jet flew earlier in the day to New York. Athens Airport is a notorious security blackspot and was briefly on an FAA warning list earlier this year. Cabins, cockpits and cargo bays of passenger jets flying to the US are checked before leaving an overseas airport, but it is not clear that they are routinely reinspected in the US. This raises the question of whether a bomb could have been carried on board by a passenger in Athens and left undetected.

The sister of one of the Lockerbie victims yesterday voiced concern that airlines are still not treating security as seriously as necessary.

Pamela Dix, a spokeswoman for the campaign group Disaster Action, whose brother Peter died on the Pan Am jet, said safety improvements appear to come about only in response to disasters.

□ New York: Shockwaves from the crash reverberated yesterday around the courtroom here where the alleged mastermind of the World Trade Centre bombing is on trial for plotting to attack US airliners over Asia (James Bone writes). Jurors were told to avoid listening to or reading reports about the crash while considering the case against Ramzi Yousef, arrested in Pakistan last year after an international manhunt.



Friends and relatives of the pupils attending a memorial service at their school



The town's sign is draped in mourning

## Teenagers mourned by friends

FROM AGENCIE FRANCE-PRESSE IN MONTOURSVILLE

MONTOURSVILLE, a town of 5,000 people in northeast Pennsylvania, yesterday mourned the deaths of 16 teenagers and five adult chaperones.

The 13 girls and three boys were seniors at Montoursville High School and belonged to the French Club. Most had saved up for the \$1,500 (£960) eight-day trip to Paris that ended in tragedy.

Amanda Kerschner, 17, like many of her friends, worked part-time at a sandwich shop to put together the money for the trip - her first abroad and her first flight. Her boss, Charlie DeSanto, said: "She told some of the girls she was afraid and I told her: 'Don't worry about it. Nothing ever happens on these big planes.'"

Teams of psychologists and crisis experts have descended on the town to help family and friends of the victims.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Jet failure blamed on pilots

Taipei: Taiwan's China Airlines acknowledged yesterday that errors by its pilots contributed to a 1994 crash that killed 264 people near Nagoya, Japan.

The airline stopped short of taking full responsibility, saying a final report issued yesterday by Japanese authorities also blamed design flaws in the highly automated Airbus A300-600 jetliner built by France's Airbus Industrie. The report by Japan's Transport Ministry said pilot errors stalled the automatic piloting system before the aircraft could land. Only seven survived the crash. (Reuters)

## Land clashes

Qaryout, West Bank: Jewish settlers broke a Palestinian woman's nose and clubbed two foreign cameramen in clashes with Arabs protesting against land seizures. (Reuters)

## Children die

Dhaka: Fourteen children drowned in swirling flood waters that have inundated nearly one-third of Bangladesh, officials said. Planes are dropping food to marooned people. (AP)

## Fuel tragedy

Lomé: An abandoned petrol tanker caught fire in Togo, killing 27 people north of here after villagers, one carrying an oil lamp, tried to scavenge some of its fuel. (Reuters)

## Hutus killed

Gitega, Burundi: More than 300 civilians from Burundi's Hutu majority were killed during army offensives at the end of June in Gitega province, local sources said. (AFP)

## Over-exposed

Cologne: Cathedral staff chased off Adam and Eve models posing at the high altar in fig leaves. A photographer released mice as a distraction, but his lighting gave him away. (AFP)

## Captain and team 'highly experienced'



Snyder had been with TWA for 32 years

Paris: The pilot and co-pilot of TWA Flight 800 were highly experienced and had both been with the airline for more than 30 years, TWA officials said yesterday. Captain Steven Snyder, 57, from Stratford, Connecticut, had 17,269 hours flying time and 32 years with the company, while his co-pilot, Captain Ralph Kevorkian, 58, had 18,791 hours and 31 years.

They were accompanied by flight engineer Richard Campbell, 63, who had 30 years of service, and a trainee, Olivier Krick, 25. There were also 14 cabin crew on board. (AFP)

## Chirac breaks news to tragic family

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

WHEN President Chirac expressed his shock at the deaths of the passengers aboard the Paris-bound TWA flight, he said he had "a special thought for the French victims, all the more because it turns out that I knew one of them".

He was referring to Rodolphe Merieux, 26, the grandson of Charles Merieux, founder of Merieux Laboratories, the prestigious medical research company, who was accompanying M Chirac on his African trip. The Merieuxs are no strangers to tragedy. Rodolphe was the younger brother of Christophe Merieux, whose

kidnapping in 1975 at the age of nine gripped France. Christophe was eventually released three days later unharmed after his family paid a Fr20 million (£25 million) ransom against police advice.

Alain Merieux, Christophe's father, had appealed to the then Prime Minister, Jacques Chirac, not to intervene until his son was freed. The kidnappers were later caught. M Merieux, who has expressed gratitude to M Chirac whom he credited with saving his child's life, has since stood unsuccessfully as a candidate for M Chirac's RPR party. The President, who said he knew Rodolphe, broke the news of his death personally to Charles Merieux during his visit to the Congo.

□ Guitarist killed: Marcel Dadi, the French guitarist who popularised country music in Europe, was among the victims. Dadi, 46, was on his way home from being honoured at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tennessee.

Dadi was one of the rare French guitarists to make his name both in America and Europe. He began his career in France in 1972, where he helped to spread the "flat-picking" style of Chet Atkins, the country guitarist.

Atkins was a personal friend of Dadi's, and the two played together several times at the Olympia in Paris. Dadi also performed once at the Grand Ole Opry country music show in Nashville. (AP)

## Guess who's not coming to dinner

FROM REUTERS IN NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

AMERICAN Friends of the Mary Rose, one of the favourite charities of the Prince of Wales, threw a party for their royal admirer, but almost no one who was anyone came.

The event on Thursday night, while lacking in the expected host of paying guests, prominent members of Newport society and much of the media, went ahead as planned at Harbour Court, the summer home of the New York Yacht Club.

As most of the nation concentrated on the tragedy off Long Island, New York, guests at this Rhode Island haunt for the rich gathered under a smallish white tent for the formal dinner, where the Prince spoke briefly.

The charity sent out 3,500 invitations to what was billed as a gala fundraiser to help restore the vessel, one of Henry VIII's warships that sank four centuries ago in a storm.

But only 225 paying guests attended. Ticket prices began at over £300 each.

## Seat prices jump as 'Shaq' nets \$120m

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

HE is 7ft 1in, weighs 320lb and wears size 22 shoes. Besides being one of America's top basketball centres, he is a rapper and film star. It was perhaps inevitable that when Shaquille "Shaq" O'Neal renegotiated his contract he would break records.

In the biggest individual salary deal in American sporting history, the 24-year-old Mr O'Neal has agreed to move from Florida's Orlando Magic to the Los Angeles Lakers for \$120 million (£79 million), to be paid over seven years.

The deal gives the renowned Lakers an international star to replace the recently retired and HIV-positive Earvin "Magic" Johnson. Capping a frenzied week of trading for the National Basketball Association, it also puts the giant Mr O'Neal under huge pressure to perform.

Within hours of his move being announced on Thursday, the cheapest ticket prices at the Lakers' home arena shot up from \$9 to \$21. A new stadium is planned to capitalise on Mr O'Neal's popularity, with special boxes to accommodate the film stars who

attend Lakers games. Mr O'Neal appeared undaunted at a press conference. "Pressure is when you don't know where your next meal is coming from," he said.

Though not a record for annual sports earnings, the \$120 million contract dwarfs the \$30 million for which Michael Jordan recently rejoined the Chicago Bulls for another year. It guarantees Mr O'Neal \$209,959 per game and \$5,801 per minute on court. As an annual salary, it works out at roughly 100 times what President Clinton earns.

Born to an unwed, unemployed mother in New Jersey, "Shaq" now sends her 50 dozen red roses every Mother's Day and owns vast homes in Florida and LA's Manhattan beach. A tattoo on his right arm (with which he averaged 27 points a game for Orlando last season) reads: "The world is mine."

Los Angeles' excitement over its latest sporting recruit is hard to overstate. On the day of the Olympics opening ceremony, his move took up five pages of the Los Angeles Times sports section.

## Romania hails aid by Britain

FROM SEAN HILLEN IN BUCHAREST

THE achievements of British volunteers and aid agencies in Romania received high praise yesterday after talks in Bucharest between Baroness Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, and President Iliescu of Romania.

The British Know-How Fund, a leading overseas development agency, has supported a wide range of successful initiatives in the financial, agricultural, educational and civic areas. Their successes are in contrast to European Commission projects which have borne the brunt of recent criticism in Romania.

Lady Chalker spent several days visiting orphanages and other health and social centres where thousands of British nurses, doctors and teachers have worked over the last six years improving the lives of orphans and children suffering from Aids.

Romania has one of the highest paediatric Aids populations in Europe, and the British group, the Romanian Orphans' Appeal, has been foremost in helping them.

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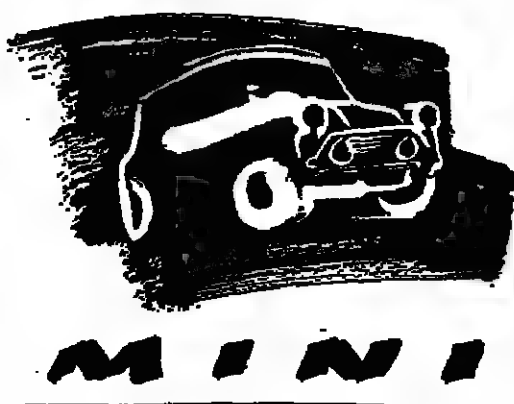
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## La Mussolini's party piece



In his desire to be seen as "liberal", she says, Signor Fini has distanced the party too far from its origins. "I cannot turn from the granddaughter of Il Duce into the granddaughter of Adam Smith," she says. She is expected to challenge Antonio Bassolino, the popular left-wing Mayor of Naples, when his term expires next year. She admires him for regenerating the city and believes that, although she narrowly lost the mayoral battle to him last time, she could convince voters that she would further revitalize Naples.



**Signora Mussolini, who backs left-wing concerns and Fascist ideals, is trying to create a power base in Naples to rally the Italian Right**

Less impressed was the Bishop of Naples, Michele Giordano, who said it was "absolutely unacceptable" to allow a show of strength by a section of society which "undermines the institution of the family". He added that, while the Church believed in "human understanding" for gays, it disapproved of a "progressive" leader such as Signor Bassolino contributing to "moral chaos". The regional secretary of the neo-Fascists applauded Bishop Giordano for standing firm against "this squalid, disturbing and vulgar spectacle".

**THE** story of Lord Nelson's affair with Emma Hamilton is being filmed in Naples, where they cavorted during the 1799 rebellion against the Bourbons. *Donne nella Tempesta* (*Women in the Storm*) is being made jointly by RAI Television, French television and the BBC. It stars Daniel Day-Lewis as Nelson and Nastassia Kinski as Caroli-

*na of Habsburg, wife of Ferdinand IV. Although Naples values its links with Britain, it has less than fond memories of Nelson, who used his flagship, HMS Vanguard, to spirit Carolina and Ferdinand away to Palermo with Emma and her cuckolded husband, the British minister, Sir William Hamilton. Nelson later helped to put down the rebellion.*

**FROM RILKE:**

□ Grasse: Gilles Mouillot, a municipal councillor and the son of the Mayor of Cannes, Michel Mouillot, was detained yesterday on suspicion of involvement in an alleged attempt by his father to extort money from a British gambling firm, judicial sources said. He is being held in Nice.

**FROM SUGAN BELL IN PARIS**

He went on to lecture local authorities on their duty to uphold justice. "Your mission is to implement the law and carry out necessary investigations, whatever the nature of the crimes and whoever is

The island has seen revenues from tourism, its main industry, drop another 15 per cent this year on 1995, itself a poor season.

**FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID**

With its high casualty rate and a fierce, primitive enemy, the Numantine war was a running sore in Roman political life. The Spanish front was



The existence of these previously unknown stone defences perhaps explains why the

**FROM MICHAEL KALLENBACH IN BONN**

However, Oskar Lafontaine, head of the SPD, denied it had organised a blockade. Rather, he said, it was the duty of the *Länder* to correct the situation. "We have the responsibility to seek social jus-

Norbert Blüm, the Employment Minister, accused the SPD of doing nothing to produce new ideas to reduce social spending.

**BY VIJITHA YARA IN COLOMBO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF**

The Mullaitivu camp is situated north of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) base called One Four, believed to be the command centre of the secessionist LTTE and a place used by their

Unconfirmed reports said a number of Tiger cadres were trapped between the security forces in the Mullaitivu camp and the reinforcements, but that the rebels had taken away armoured vehicles, guns and ammunition.

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## ■ OPINION

Is it art, or is it a bag of lard? That is a question worth £10,000 in prize money



## ■ POP

And is it Elvis — or is it El Vez, the man who put a Latino stamp on Hound Dog?

THE TIMES  
ARTS

## ■ ON MONDAY

Times critics review David Bowie and the other stars at the Phoenix Festival ...



## ■ ON MONDAY

... and the opening weekend of concerts and opera from the BBC Proms at the Albert Hall

Did you, like me, find this year's shortlist for the Tate Gallery's Turner Prize somewhat lacking in agricultural nourishment? No dead sheep to be seen. Not a single rice field attempted by any competitor. And one finalist who actually paints pictures. Honestly, I sometimes despair of our art colleges.

Never mind! There is one prize, at least, that keeps the great traditions of modern British art alive. Yes, an art student is £10,000 richer this week after winning the 1996 Bayer Earth Art Award with a sculpture made of steel, PVC, strip lights — and a third of a ton of lard. Dee Meaden, 23, from the Chelsea College of Art (how proud they must be!) beat 330 other entrants with *Too Many Variables*, which impressed the judges (the indefatigably trendy Brian Eno, David Mach and Francis Graham-Dixon) by immersing six strip lights in lard to turn it "from a solid white lump into a glowing, amber liquid". Thus it was apparently able to convey "contradictory

feelings of comfort and anxiety". According to the people at Bayer (who are not completely bonkers, but a German chemicals company), this giant bag of lard "invites tactile investigation but also threatens to burst and flood its contents at any moment".

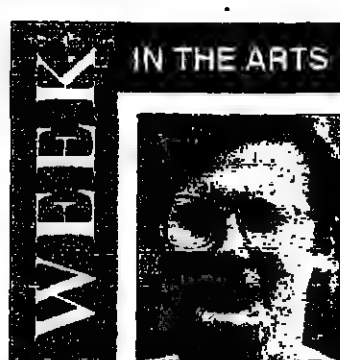
It all reminds me of an accident I had while trying to defrost our fridge a few years ago. If memory serves, that unfortunate incident also involved a thrilling combustion of steel, spurting methane gas, strip lights, live electric wires, charred human flesh (my own) and lard — not to mention margarine, a half-eaten trifle, several pints of milk and a kipper.

I cannot recall whether I experienced "contradictory feelings of comfort and anxiety", but I do realise that I was silly to dispose of the wrecked fridge and its unusual soufflé of debris. What I should

have done, of course, was enter the whole ghastly mess for the Bayer Earth Art Award.

Our friends at the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (crazy name, crazy guys!) have once again produced the most astonishing list in British culture. It is the one that reveals the huge differences in local authority support for the arts around Britain.

The figures defy all logic. Is Leicestershire a vastly wealthier county than Berkshire? Are the puffy lads of Loughborough so much more cultured than the merry wives of Windsor? It seems improbable. So why is Leicestershire's arts subsidy 30 times greater per head than Berkshire's? And what of Hertfordshire, that county of wall-to-wall Volvos? I wonder what its annual subsidy



RICHARD MORRISON

for the arts — a princely 10p per head — actually buys. Half a banjo? A secondhand turn? It's the sly, middle-class unfairness of it all that makes me cross. Living in Royston, Hertfordshire,

and paying just 10p each year towards the arts doesn't disqualify you from ripping to Cambridge and enjoying the excellent theatre life which is subsidised handsomely by that city's ratepayers (£16.57 per head). Similarly, Birmingham residents (£10.98) are bankrolling a superb diet of music and theatre for outlying Warwickshire (£1.31).

But that's not the main problem. Much local-authority spending on the arts is for youth or amateur activity. People won't travel out of their area for that. Indeed, young people usually cannot afford to. Instead, there is apathy, boredom, violence, and kids kicking around on street corners with nothing to do except get into trouble.

Recently I was in a small town in the west of England. It has no theatre, cinema or youth club. Its education budget is in shreds; most kids leave school at 16; and

the main local employer has just relocated. A pub started a disco twice a week; the council closed it for "noise reasons".

You do wonder whether the people running that town are in politics to improve the quality of life, or sadistically to extinguish all hope from the lives of the have-nots. This isn't an argument about money; it is about whether we want communities or fragmented, dangerous urban badlands where the only thing that matters is how green the grass is in your own, heavily fortified, backyard.

Fed up with all those ancient pop groups that cling desperately to the illusion that they still have something important to offer the world? Then I bear terrible tidings. Status Quo, the Stones, Clapton and the rest could still be belting out their whisky

hits half a century from now. Yes, it's sad but apparently true. A BBC TV series called *Coming of Age* will claim next month that "by the year 2050 there's a very good chance that many Britons will live for 112 years or more".

Mathematically gifted readers will realise the terrible implications. That self-important generation, the "children of the Sixties", could be clogging up the CD catalogues, holding desperate reunions in Hyde Park, and suing Radio 1 over being "unfairly excluded" from the playlist, well into the 21st century. What chance will teenage newcomers have against frisky ninety-somethings?

Still, let's look on the bright side. Rain-soaked Wimbledon crowds 40 years hence will still be rejoicing to the merry sound of Cliff Richard crooning *Summer Holiday*. Jeremy Beadle will still be "about" in 2030. And Messrs Boublil and Schonberg have enough decades left for a dozen more musicals like *Martin Guerre*. Cheering thoughts.

## King of the Mexican wave

El Vez, the Presley impersonator for the politically correct, hits London next week. Kate Muir reports

Most of us have seen Elvis Presley impersonators — at the Memphis "Weep Week", say, the anniversary of the King's death, or in Chinese restaurants in south London. But El Vez, the Mexican now coming to Britain, has brought the art of imitation to new heights. In a white flared jumpsuit emblazoned with the Virgin of Guadalupe, El Vez sings *You're Nothing But a Chihuahua for Hound Dog*. In *El Barrio* for *In the Ghetto* and *Esta Bien, Mama* for *That's Alright, Mama*.

El Vez began life 32 years ago as Robert Lopez, born to Mexican parents who lived on the American side of the border. When he reached maturity (of sorts) he started buying Day of the Dead folk art cheap in Mexico and sawing it in America. Later, while working in a small museum in Los Angeles, this inspired him to curate an exhibition of Elvis folk art. "Crude Elvis dolls with ceramic heads and really weird jumpsuits, that kinda stuff," he says. "The finest work was a fly-swatter cover crocheted with an image of Elvis."

El Vez appreciated the heartfelt sincerity behind these objects of general ridicule. In his own home he has four velvet paintings of Elvis and a couple of fine oils. The Graceland style — the shagpile, gilt and faux leopard covering — has percolated his inner being. "I love it," he

breathes. "My bedroom has a furry Elvis bedspread and gold brocade on the headboard. I have Aztec sundials and gold Elvis discs on the walls, and mirrors on the ceiling." Of course El Vez makes the pilgrimage to Memphis twice a year, for the birth (January 8, 1935) and the death (August 16, 1977) anniversaries.

His first performance came in 1989. "I thought: 'I can do that better than that' after I saw impersonators at the Elvis folk art show. I used to sing in a punk rock band, so the idea was to go to Graceland and sing to people waiting in line." Instead, someone told him to call up the annual Elvis impersonators' contest. "I'm Robert Lopez, I'm calling for the Mexican Elvis, El Vez," he began. "Oh yeah, we've heard of him," they said, although he had just been created on the spur of the moment.

On the plane to the contest Lopez rewrote some of the songs, practised his moves in the hotel room and sang in a jacket covered in Elvis badges with a painting of El Vez on the back. He also wore a gold sombrero. By the time he got home to Los Angeles calls were coming in from television stations. Oprah Winfrey, Jay Leno, MTV and Joan Rivers courted him, and, six albums later, El Vez is now on his

world tour. I catch up with him, his backing singers the Elvetes, and his band, the Memphis Mariachis, when the tour hit a club just off the post-packed Reeperbahn in Hamburg.

Do the Germans grasp the ironies here, appreciate the kitsch, and understand Angelino-Latino culture, I wonder. El Vez examines his chipped black nail polish and goes all right-on: "In Berlin,

**"I take the Latino point of view and put it on to Elvis's songs"**

when I was singing *Immigration Time* — which is a borders version of *Suspicious Minds* — kids came up to me, Turkish kids who lived in Germany, and said they got it. "Germany is now a melting pot, just like America. In Slovenia Croatian kids say they understand about Emiliano Zapata. It puts their lives in context, gives them a more global point of view."

At the beginning of the show, two red banners are unfurled at the back of the stage, each featuring a black eagle on a white circle. "These symbols are not fascist insignia," the audience is told. "They are the symbols of the National Farmers of Mexico [a favoured cause of El Vez]."

But they have the same shock value, even though the eagle is of Aztec design. "I think it's fascinating that the worst-oppressed people are using the symbols of the worst oppressors," El Vez says. "The Brown Berets were like the Black Panthers of the Latino set. They wore brown shirts. And black nail varnish? When exactly did the real Elvis wear that? Oh, never. This is part of my celebration of glitter rock. I take Elvis songs and rearrange them with other influences like Bowie and T. Rex, just to show how Elvis's music reflected on other people."

He plunges deeper: "I take

the Latino point of view and put it on top of Elvis's songs because Presley is the American Dream and, like, I am superimposing the Latino culture on top of the Dream because America can belong to a Latino too." Presumably this is why one of his albums is called *G.I. Ay, Ay! Blues*.

El Vez points to the quote from the politico-folk singer Phil Ochs, which goes: "If there's any hope for America it lies in a Revolution. And if there's any hope for a Revolution, it lies in getting Elvis Presley to become Che Guevara." Thus we have the El Vez *Rock and Revolution* summer tour, and its carefully crafted sales pitch.

El Vez does indeed come on as Guevara, in a crotch-fitting flared jumpsuit in Army camouflage material, and the Elvetes carry plastic machine guns. Standing before the red banners, he opens with a reworking of James Brown: *Say it Loud, I'm Brown and I'm Proud*. Hundreds of Germans scream and stomp and drink beer. They have no real idea of what is going on. They like El Vez in the same way that they like tortilla chips. Will the British know any better?

In the middle of the show there is a ten-minute medley of Elvis songs, and some costume changes which pay tribute to the King's tackiest years. El Vez begins in pink flock-wallpaper flares, a purple sequined shirt and a feather boa. Then the flares are ripped off to reveal skintight purple satin drapings, and a red sequined shirt appears beneath the black. Girls scream. One throws a cuddly bunny. El Vez kisses outstretched hands and, Presley-style, throws sweaty towels into the audience.

The show is as slick as El Vez's concept. No wonder he once had a job as a salesman in an LA shop called Wacko, which sold "crazy plastic Godzilla monsters, Ultraman dolls, all sorts of kitsch". He is merely recycling the songs which parallel that kitschy culture, in a neat political package.

"The Chicano thing," he says, "is like, in America, we were here first. The Spanish street names in California, the adobe houses, it was all there before them. White Americans

love our culture, they love our music, but they just don't love us. We are the maids, the janitors, the dishwashers, and they complain we're taking away their jobs, but they're jobs they don't want. Then there are the sweatshops, the farmworkers sprayed with chemicals while working on the fields as though they are not real people. I don't feel like I'm really being an activist, I just do whatever I can."

El Vez has had to dig deep to find the Aztec in Elvis, but he has discovered the last jumpsuit Presley wore was emblazoned with the Aztec calendar and sundial. He also says that impersonation itself was part of Aztec life. "There was the cult of the King impersonators. An ordinary man would live like a king for a year, and be paraded round the city dressed in robes. At the end of the year, he would be sacrificed."

El Vez is at the Garage, Highbury Corner, London N5 (0171-407 1818) on Thursday



"In a white flared jumpsuit emblazoned with the Virgin of Guadalupe, El Vez sings *You're Nothing But a Chihuahua for Hound Dog*. In *El Barrio* for *In the Ghetto*"

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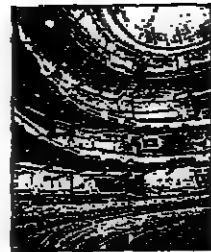
## CINEMA

The Irish film industry puts its best footage forward at the Galway Film Fleadh



## YOUNG ARTS

Whitby born and bred, Eliza Carthy is one of a new breed of fine young folk singers



## GOING OUT

From Lulu and the other operas in the current repertoire at Glyndebourne...



## GOING OUT

... to George Melly in festive mood: the top entertainments are listed in Weekend, page 16

# New life in the emerald aisles

With a confident swagger, the Irish film industry put itself on show at the Galway Film Fleadh. Luke Clancy watched the results

When Terry George's *Some Mother's Son* was premiered at Cannes this year, one British critic gained an extraordinary amount of publicity for himself and the film by suggesting it was Irish Government-sponsored propaganda.

Leaving aside the propaganda question, the film certainly received strong support from the Republic of Ireland, both from new tax incentives for film productions and from the re-established Irish Film Board. It was appropriate, then, that the film's second public screening, and its Irish premiere, should be in Galway, the city that is home to that film board.

Since the Irish Government, in the shape of Michael D. Higgins, the Culture Minister, turned its attention to its development, the film sector in Ireland has seen rapid expansion. As proof of this, the Galway Film Festival this year offered an unprecedented six Irish feature premieres, ranging from George's unequivocally Republican film about the 1981 H-Block hunger strikes, to *Exterminator*, a flippant, ultra-low-budget action movie.

*Some Mother's Son*, which George co-wrote with Jim Sheridan, who collaborated with him on *In the Name of the Father*, was the only Irish feature at the festival to receive a standing ovation, although this was perhaps as much for its frankly Republican sentiments as for its cinematic

value. The film certainly comes with a distinct point of view, powerfully and movingly expressed. It clearly sides with the hunger strikers, seen through the eyes of two of their mothers, played by Helen Mirren and Fionnula Flanagan, but makes no claim to do otherwise.

It is as polished a production as has ever emerged from the Irish film industry and represents a far-from-rare vision of recent history. It would have been a strange national film board that did not facilitate its production. As it happens, however, only \$1 million of the film's \$8 million budget came from the film board, the remainder arriving from the American giant Castle Rock, whose lustrous production values mark the film.

If there was a type of film that the Irish Film Board should certainly think carefully about sponsoring in future, it is the coming-of-age drama. Several new Irish films took refuge in this creamy, sentimental genre, using the end of the summer holidays as a clumsy narrative full stop to a pointless story.

If Irish film is finally growing up, let's hope it does not turn out anything like *Last of the High Kings*, a film that creaks with smugness, while remaining undeniably immature. It was co-written by Gabriel Byrne, who also turns up to provide the performance that bookends the movie as the often absent head of the tire-somey colourful Griffin family. One longs for his return,



Visiting hours: Helen Mirren and Aiden Gillen star in Terry George's hunger-strike drama, *Some Mother's Son*

even if only because his appearance will obviously signal the end of this mercilessly self-satisfied film.

Geraldine Creed's first feature also finds its bare bones of a plot stretched over a long summer vacation, this time spent in the grim resorts of north Dublin. *The Son*, the *Moon* and the *Stars* has suffered an arduous passage to the screen, but this cluttered tale of grumpy, Doc-Martens-wearing Shelley's seaside holiday still gives the unmistakable impression of being a little rushed. Slackly scripted by Creed and loosely acted by a cast that bizarrely includes

Jason Donovan and Angie Dickinson, the film is as laborious as it is ragged.

Sue Clayton's *The Disappearance of Finbar* has all the marks of a film planted in the loamy soil of co-production. Based on a novel by Carl Lombard, the story starts in the rougher parts of Tallaght, in south Dublin, and winds up, a few hundred miles north, in the white wastes of Lapland.

Coming of age is once more the quest, but the film also powerfully contrasts one kind of bleakness in Tallaght with quite another at the edges of the Arctic circle. Both are captured in Eduardo Serra's

laconic photography, and Luke Griffin is gently effective as the stoically confused adolescent in search of his lost friend and his own future.

Every film festival now needs its guttersnipe auteur and Galway certainly had one in the shape of Enda Hughes, director of *Exterminator*. This unapologetically lo-fi splatter film is a hugely enjoyable homage to the exploitation movie, recycling everything from *Rebel Without a Cause* to *Evil Dead* in a robustly trashy vision of Irish history.

Gillies MacKinnon's *Trojan Eddie* occasionally indulges in some gruesome

violence that would not be out of place in *Exterminator*, but there the similarities between the two end. Rather than mumbled B-movie clichés, McKinnon's film has a muscular and measured script

by Billy Roche, and stars the exquisitely withdrawn Stephen Rea as a market hawker mixed up with the semi-criminal business of one family of "travellers". Richard Harris co-stars as the ageing, lebrille brute at the head of a criminal family. His performance may be a close relative of his Bull McCabe in *The Field* but is still a poignant, if menacing, creation.

## GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

## ELIZA CARTHY

Age 20

Profession: Folk singer and fiddler. The elfin star of the new bratpack of British folk.

Winning combination: Carthy's first solo album, *Heart, Light & Sound*, has thrilled the critics with its technical assurance and fresh gutsy style. Carthy enthusiastically retrieves traditional tunes, jaunty hornpipes or gruesome murder ballads from the archives of Cecil Sharp House. Yet she also has a poppy, punky look. A far cry from the hobos of yore, her hair was bright blue when she played at the Albert Hall the other week.

Roots: Liza — the E is silent — is the offspring of two icons of the 1960s folk revival. Her father is the guitarist and vocalist Martin Carthy, who influenced Bob Dylan, Paul Simon and many more. Her mother, Norma, was one of the seminal family of singers, the Watsons. Indeed the tradition reaches way back. One great-great-grandmother was a tinker who knew a ballad or two.

At home: Liza was born and bred in Whitby, where the kitchen regularly featured rehearsing musicians. She also totered about on folk festival stages before she could play a note. She still lives in Whitby, sharing a house with fellow fiddle player Nancy Kerr, when they are not on the road.

For the record: Liza will be playing at the mighty Cambridge Folk Festival all day on Friday. She is also recording two more albums: one with her dance band, the Kings of Callcut, the other with her parents, both for release this winter.

What drives her? "I just really enjoy giggling," she says. "With folk songs you are imparting stories. Then, with the dance band, everyone starts jumping around." She first realised this was the life at 13, when her mother and Aunt Laila decided it would be fun to sing with their daughters and landed them a date at the Vancouver Folk Festival. "It was ace and I got paid," Carthy says, "and I thought, this is a great job." Carthy is also passionate about English folk music, admiring her Celtic counterparts but feistily proud of her own country's forgotten airs.

How do you sing and play the violin at the same time? "It's like patting your head and rubbing your stomach," she says. "I just open my mouth and hope."

KATE BASSETT

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## THEATRE

Seen it all before: will the new nude musical, *Voyeurz*, measure up to its predecessor?



## BASE NOTES

Elliott Carter, America's senior composer, is to receive one of music's most coveted honours

## THE TIMES ARTS



## BASE NOTES

Gene Wilder will make his West End stage debut in a Neil Simon play this autumn



## BASE NOTES

Pub pianists of the world, compete! Leeds gets ready to roll out the barrel

As *Voyeurz* arrives, Jeremy Kingston recalls the era when sex on stage was thought 'interesting'

# The first shock of the nude

In the adverts a heavy-lidded blonde is leaning out through what looks like a porthole in Hell. She is down to her black knickerz but her stocking-topz are still hoist high. In the flame-red background a couple of girls are dancing round each other. "Satisfy your curiosity" reads the legend. *Voyeurz* is coming.

Billed as a follow-up to the 1970 nuders 'n' sexes show *Oh! Calcutta!*, also produced by Michael White, it is "the story of a young girl's discovery of her own sexuality set against the backdrop of a steamy anything goes New York nightclub". Including Fern 2 Fem, the lipstick lesbian band (ie, men also fancy them), the women in the cast outnumber the men by 13 to two, and one of the men wears a dress. So what little innocent Jane (Sally Anne Marsh), the farm-girl from Virginia (geddit?), looks likely to discover, sexually-wise, is not just, heaven knows, anything goes, but that one thing seems to go on more than others.

We shall find out next week whether what is on display greatly differs from the sort of Saturday evenings we enjoy when we strap on our rubber and bondage and head up West. But what is interesting is the mention of *Oh! Calcutta!* as a show everyone is assumed to remember as a landmark for what can be shown on the public stage.

Some of us do remember it, of course, and are finding the rubber gear a tad of a strain to squeeze into these days, for it is 26 years this month since *Oh! Calcutta!* — pardon my French — opened in London. Bliss was it in those days to be in the theatre.



Bodies of evidence: Ken Tynan's *Oh! Calcutta!* broke the taboos but would look "pathetically unimaginative" today

Stirring times. Indeed, nuders had not long been permitted to show themselves stirring in the theatre. In the words of *The Times* leader writer: "It is only a couple of years since the prim hand of the Lord Chamberlain was lifted from the public stage."

Audiences who attended *Hair* had seemingly not been deprived or corrupted either by the nudity in a dim light or by mention of masturbation

and sodomy. But what would be the consequences when references, hitherto merely verbal, were physically simulated by actors, nude or otherwise? Ken Tynan, who devised *Oh! Calcutta!*, had let it be known that this was the kind of activity audiences would be able to see. But simulation would surely mean stimulation. This was clearly an issue on which opinions had to be voiced, stands taken.

This paper's leader devoted 28 column inches to the matter, deciding that "the leap from what passed [the Lord Chamberlain's] office to the nude simulation of sexual excitement, even if accompanied by highbrow banter, is a leap too far for the generality of opinion". A GLC councillor asked the Archbishop of Canterbury and Westminster to condemn the show as "the shame of London". Wisely,

their diaries were kept too full for a visit to be arranged.

So what was it really like, this "offence to all Christians"? Tynan had commissioned a score of well-known writers — Joe Orton, Sam Shepard, Jules Feiffer, John Lennon among them — to write a sketch about something sexual. Irving Wardle, then the drama critic of this newspaper, commented: "I have seen better revues than *Oh! Calcutta!* but none based on ideas that strike me as more sympathetic. Namely, that the ordinary human body is an object well worth attention."

That said, he found it "in

many ways a ghastly show; ill-written, juvenile, attention-seeking," but went on to say, "not boring; and some of the material is very funny". I was writing for *Punch* in those days and commented, with quaint care: "The display of bare bodies is interesting to watch." It was too, though so many have been visible since, doing so much more, that a

So what was it really like, this 'offence to all Christians'?

film of the show would look pathetically unimaginative.

I also found its sketches a mix of good, passable and dire, particularly liking the one that showed the orthodox girl fantasies of a group of masturbating males repeatedly giving way before a colleague's insistent vision of the galloping Lone Ranger.

Will *Voyeurz* be witty? Oh, I hope so, but whatever its content and however prurient the hype, a show like this in 1996 will not be generating 28 column inches of social analysis. Nor is it likely to revive the tangled arguments, not to say cant, favouring freedom of expression at all costs. In 1970 the publisher John Calder said that *Oh! Calcutta!* must be encouraged because it brought nearer the day when there would be no need for such shows. I do not know what he meant by need, any more than I can say if we need *Voyeurz* today. I hope I like what Fern 2 Fem play and that Jane finds fulfilment in New York. I dare say the display of bare bodies will be... interesting.

## Veterans' day at the Proms

## BASE NOTES

TWO of the world's oldest and most distinguished composers will meet at the Royal College of Music in London on Monday. Sir Michael Tippett, now 91, will present the gold medal of the Royal Philharmonic Society to the American Elliott Carter, his junior by four years. The medal, which has been awarded to many of the greatest composers and performers of the past century, will be presented during the first BBC lunchtime prom, which includes the London premiere of Carter's String Quartet No 5. Concert and presentation are to be broadcast live on Radio 3, starting at 1pm.

Welsh National Opera. The original plan for a Cardiff Bay Opera House was rejected by another lottery-disbursing quango, the Millennium Commission, last year.

HOLLYWOOD funny man Gene Wilder is venturing on to the West End stage for the first time. He will star in Neil Simon's *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* at the Queen's Theatre, opening on October 3. Wilder plays a writer for television during the medium's heyday in the 1950s.

LEEDS will host not one piano competition in September, but two. The more famous is the Leeds International Piano Competition, which attracts brilliant young players from around the globe. But the jollier occasion is likely to be the 1996 Telford Great Universal Leeds Pub Piano Competition, designed to find the world's best pub pianist, and carrying the irresistible first prize of "£200 plus six months' supply of beer". Details and entry forms from Sharon Williams, Leeds Leisure Services, Town Hall, Leeds LS1 3AD (0113-247 8332).

THE Festival Hall in London is going "live" on the Internet for the first time next Friday. A concert by the techno-pop composer Ryszard Sakamoto — best known for his work on the film *Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence* — will be broadcast on the Internet, thanks to sponsorship by Mitsubishi. The National Film Theatre is also mounting a day-long retrospective of Sakamoto's film work, and staging an interview with him at 6pm.

## THEATRES

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

## IT'S A STICK-UP

The Style section explains why it is no longer rude to point

PLUS: THE STATE WE'RE REALLY IN  
Britain is in the grip of a feel-bad factor, according to an exclusive opinion poll in a special issue of The Sunday Times Magazine.  
But our panel of experts find we shouldn't be feeling quite so bad after all



As violence spreads and Ulster's ambiguous status arouses Unionist fears, Norman Lamont calls on the Government to think again

Recent events have been a massive victory for the IRA and Sinn Féin. Until recently they were losing the propaganda battle. The conventional Whitehall wisdom was that whatever the setbacks to the peace process, the IRA were marginalised and appeared intransigent. Not any longer. After last week they portrayed themselves as protectors of the weak. Gerry Adams walked the streets calling for restraint and calm.

Too many people in Britain have fallen for this misleading picture. The reaction of many people to the Orange marches has been a mixture of outrage and puzzlement. The view has even been expressed in the letters columns of *The Times* that the Orangemen's antics have been more offensive to the rest of the UK than the IRA killings of the past 20 years.

I find it desperately sad that there should be so little understanding and sympathy for those whose greatest fear is that they may not be allowed to continue to be a part of this country.

Undoubtedly the Orange marches attracted a skinhead element and there was violence against Catholics. But Cardinal

# Why the peace process is dead

Daly might have recognised that the so-called "residents' associations" that reacted with fury to the marches were led by IRA supporters. He might also have acknowledged the remarkable restraint of the majority after what they have put up with for 20 years. To equate the bomb and the bullet with marches shows a curious set of values.

The tragedy of last week is that it was predictable and indeed, was predicted. One of those who foresaw these events was the veteran Irish politician, Conor Cruise O'Brien. Two-and-a-half years ago he described the IRA ceasefire as a tactic in the continuing armed struggle. He forecast that the IRA would use the opportunity to destabilise Ulster. He predicted that Sinn Féin would seek to create a confrontation between the Protestant majority and the civil authorities. Ironically he has been ill just as his prophecies have looked increasingly accurate.

It is time to recognise that the

peace process is dead. That is no reflection on the Government or the Prime Minister. But as Winston Churchill once said, "If we do not face reality, reality will face us". In this case refusing to face reality could be very dangerous.

The peace process did not die with the Orange marches. It did not die because of lack of effort from the British Government. It died with the bombs at Canary Wharf and Manchester.

It is pointless to keep saying after every bomb goes off that the peace process goes on regardless. The idea that one can establish peace without the IRA is obviously ridiculous. And for good reasons the Government has rightly decided not to allow Sinn Féin to participate in talks.

The British public, tired by years of bombing, regards anything called a "peace process" as a good thing. Did not the process, after all, stop the bombing for 18 months? That is like saying that 1937 and 1938 brought a period of peace.

In judging the peace process, the real question is: will Northern Ireland in the long run be nearer to peace? The results so far are not encouraging. The IRA have been able to use the ceasefire and reduced surveillance to regroup for a new offensive. They have been able to raise large amounts of money. The problem has been internationalised — and finally, Sinn Féin has won a large vote in an election.

Two years ago in the House of Commons, I asked what negotiations with Sinn Féin were going to be about. Surely, I suggested, the one thing the IRA were interested in, namely the reunification of Ireland, was the one thing that could not be given. The IRA are not in the business of setting up cross-border tourist authorities, nor are they interested in the internal government of Northern Ireland. Theirs is a bigger agenda: the ending of British rule. A few weeks ago, Dick Spring

described the peace process as "the search for a middle way between Unionism and Nationalism". Sir Patrick Mayhew, in the House of Commons, denied this definition of the peace process. But those were the words of the Irish Foreign Affairs Minister.

There cannot be a middle way between Unionism and Nationalism. To pursue a middle way that does not exist is likely to arouse unrealistic expectations on the part of Nationalists and simultaneously to provoke a backlash from the majority, who fear they are being sold down the river. That is what has happened and will continue to happen if policy does not change.

The Protestant majority have good reason to be fearful. They can read newspapers and opinion polls as well as anyone else. They know that sections of British public opinion are all too ready to contemplate withdrawal from Northern Ireland. They have seen British governments in the past attempt to dump Ulster. Even Winston Churchill

flirted with handing over the six counties. Recently the special status of Ulster has appeared more ambiguous. The Union Jack has ceased to fly over army establishments. The national anthem is no longer to be sung at graduation day at Queen's University, Belfast.

With this deliberate erosion of national symbols, is it any wonder that Orangemen have become more militant, more determined to emphasise their identity and tradition?

The Government must be careful not to appear even-handed between democratic politicians and politicians associated with violence. Significant concessions have been made to the IRA, such as the release of prisoners before they have completed their sentences — a remarkable contrast with the policies urged elsewhere by Michael Howard.

What Ulster needs is certainty about its constitutional future. To introduce the slightest hint of ambiguity into the status of North-

ern Ireland — particularly the so-called "Irish" dimension — is to reinforce the cycle of violence and counter-violence.

Britain has a clear obligation to the Nationalist minority in Northern Ireland. Any Government which presides over a religious or ethnic minority has a duty to see that the freedoms of that minority are safeguarded and that their lives and property are protected. It is quite justifiable for the minority to be given an entrenched position in any arrangement for the internal government of Northern Ireland. But what is not justified is to give foreign governments a special say in Northern Ireland. That merely feeds the fear of the majority.

It is time for the Government to think again. John Major has tried tremendously hard, as hard as any human being could have done. But his efforts have met with a miserable response. Now is the time for a completely new approach. It should involve government in Ulster more like the rest of the UK. It ought also to mean a new offensive against the terrorists. The Government must sound as though it wants to defeat terrorism. And that is a task in which there is a key role for the Irish Government.

## The Spanish Civil War: a memoir

Hugh Thomas recalls writing his classic history of the conflict that began 60 years ago

I first went to Spain by train from Paris in the winter of 1935, and I travelled to Madrid, Málaga, Seville and Granada. Every incident in that journey is etched in my memory. In Seville, walking one day out of the old Hotel Inglaterra into the plaza de San Francisco, I determined at all costs, however difficult it might seem, that when I returned to London, I would write a history of the Spanish Civil War.

Why should such a desire frame itself? I cannot now quite explain the full answer. I don't think I had met John Elliott at Cambridge. I had not even heard of Raymond Carr and, although I had been lent Gerald Brenan's *The Spanish Labyrinth*, I did not read it until I returned to London.

Obviously I was looking for a subject. Gibbon described how he toyed with the idea of writing about the Medici and the Swiss republic before deciding to write *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. I think that if people are honest with themselves, that is how most books begin. Before going to Spain, I was obsessed with the French Huguenot wars, and I might easily have written about them.

It is difficult now to recapture just what an intellectual wasteland the Spanish Civil War was in the late 1930s. In Spain itself, the Franco regime was using the memory of the war as the key to its propaganda. It was a most successful policy, for most Spaniards would say, well, whatever you may say about Franco, we are determined never to have another civil war. Few doubts about the nature of the nationalist victory were published. The monarchy seemed the best hope for the future, but the charming and anglophile Don Juan had been outmanoeuvred by Franco and was badly advised, and Don Juan Carlos was still being educated.

Outside Spain, surviving exiles were bringing their intelligence to bear on the civil war, especially in Mexico and France, but politically they presented a divided face. For the rest, the experience of the

world war had effaced most memories of the Spanish war, even if some thought of it as a rehearsal — a metaphor which always seems a little unsatisfactory, since Spain was not present at the main performance. A few survivors of the International Brigades might sing *Los Cuatro Generales*, but they were already moving into the twilight of the past.

More than the books I read or the battle sites I visited, it is the people I consulted who stand out in my memory: Pablo de Azcarate, ex-republican ambassador to London and retired UN official, whom I used to visit in Geneva and who gave me access to his papers over a sombre glass of scotch; Salvador de Madariaga, author of what seemed then the best modern history of Spain, whose benign, enthusiastic, small, energetic figure I still see in my mind whenever I go to the Reform Club, his London base. It was there, too, that I first met Julian Gorkin, one of the leaders of the POUM, and there he told me how La Pasionaria had been built up to be a great orator by a Svengali from the Comintern.

Once I was working in the Avenue Foch, the Paris seat of the exiled republican government, when big doors swung open and I saw Emilio Herrera, minister of war in exile. Herrera had been a correct colonel in 1936 who had stood by the republic, not for ideological reasons but because he had given his oath of loyalty to it. "What's been happening, my general?" I asked. "Ah, the Government has fallen." "And the new Prime Minister?" Herrera with a sigh replied: "It is I, señor."

Others whom I came to know in Spain included Ramon Serrano Súñer, Franco's brother-in-law. He had then been long out of office, but had been an important influence on the Generalissimo in the war. As a good liberal in those days, I hesitated a while on my first visit outside his holiday house in the Basque resort of Zarauz, before pressing the bell. Was Serrano not a friend of Germany, who had openly

regretted the fact that Hitler had lost the war? Had we not been told in 1941 that *el cuñadísimo* ("the supreme brother-in-law") would soon be landing in Devonshire at the head of an army of foreign legionaries, to assist the Nazis and thus avenge the misdeeds of the infamous Drake? But historians should not have such sensitivity, and in the event Serrano could not have been more welcoming. I stayed to lunch.

Though I did not neglect the International Brigades, I could not see the most famous of the British brigadiers, the promising poet John Cornford, for he had left his bones near Córdoba. But I did meet his mother, the poet Frances Cornford, who insisted (to the surprise of some of his comrades) that her son had been shot deliberately by his communist friends because he was about to abandon that affiliation.

When my book *The Spanish Civil War* was published in 1961, it obviously satisfied a definite need, since it was a success. I have lived with *de la Guerra Civil*, almost as if it had been a surname, ever since; though I am glad to claim that, with my studies of Cortés and Moctezuma, I have now a second such appellation, namely, *y de la Conquista de México*.

After the death of Franco in 1975, the censorship was lifted and there was a great wave of books about the civil war, some having been previously banned like my book, others written specially for the occasion. Am I deceiving myself, or did this avalanche of histories play a positive part in the transition to democracy, and in creating that mood of tolerance which is such an appealing part of modern Spain, and such a contrast with the past?

This is an edited version of a paper given by Lord Thomas of Swynnerton at a seminar in the Escorial yesterday to mark the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the civil war.

## Wake me for the mile

The Olympics are a television feast for the hard of thinking. But brevity is the soul of reporting

I am going to sleep for two weeks, but wake me for the mile. The mile is the only race that matters. A mile a day keeps the doctor away. A mile a minute was the Great Western's target timetable. From Bannister and Chataway to Coe and Ovett, this distance has retained its magic. It demands a precise balance of physical strength and tactical intelligence. The four-minute mile was the athletic sound barrier. When Emsley Carr became the first athletics sponsor, he chose to sponsor the mile. Even debased as the 1500 metres, it is one Olympic event whose outcome does not seem to depend on ethnicity, muscle tone, steroids, equipment, luck, suspect judges or ludicrous scoring. It is a joy to watch.

That event apart, the next fortnight looks grim. Once again the airwaves are to be saturated with material that meets television's dream requirement, to keep the maximum number of sets switched on, even if the viewer is in a state of zombie-like waiting for the next bit of excitement to happen. After an absurd European Cup, a disappointing Wimbledon and a wash-out Test series, we must endure the Atlanta Olympics. And since two thirds of the world will allegedly be doing so, such endurance must be a significant human experience.

The novelist Philip Pullman complained in public this week that nobody writes stories any more. We have all lost the art of narrative, of incident, plot and suspense. Instead we have the gratification of a desire for instant news, however vacuous. In other words, we have sport. Sport is the perfect newsbite, an incident of no consequence but of real-time immediacy. Nowadays we are expected to appreciate it even without the synthetic chauvinism of "home team" involvement. It is simply a question followed by an answer: who played and who won? There is no time for "so what?"

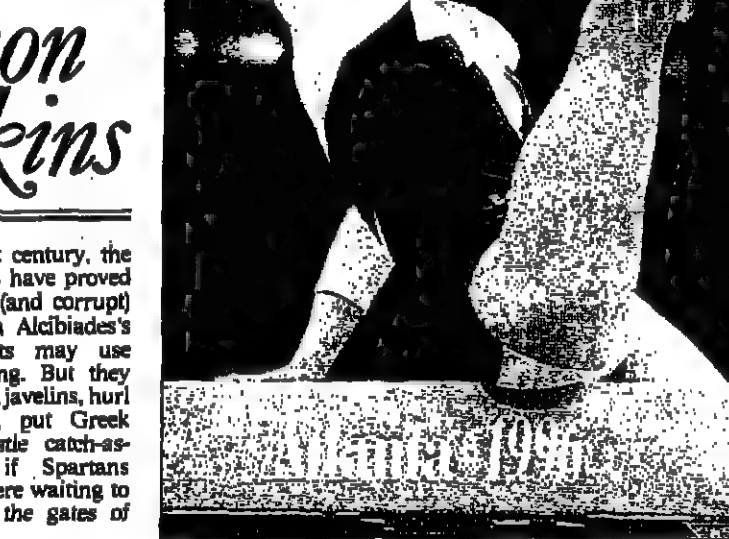
Some sporting occasions do have the quality of a saga. A soccer international unfolds from partisan anticipation to the crafted suspense of the penalty shoot-out. A tennis match has the thrill of two contestants in personal combat, the nearest modern sport

### Simon Jenkins

vival in the last century, the Olympic Games have proved as conservative (and corrupt) as they were in Alcibiades's day. Contestants may use high-tech training. But they still throw Greek javelins, hurl Greek discuses, put Greek shots and wrestle catch-as-catch-can, as if Spartans covered in oil were waiting to pounce outside the gates of Atlanta.

What the modern Olympics do not do is honour Pheidippides's other contribution to Olympic legend, his brevity of reportage. His masterly words, "Chairete, nikomen", have been transformed into a bloated spurge of verbiage. Televising the 1948 games cost the BBC £1,500. Atlanta will cost it £30 million. Small wonder the schedules have been cleared and the lexicon, loaded for hyperbole. A huge media gathering will turn a local event into a global one. The 16,000 journalists and technicians outnumbering the 10,000 contestants. If any reporters drop dead on the spot, it will be from expenses fatigue.

Sagas will be manufactured. Frantic efforts will be made to find a drugs story, a sex story, a national shame story. Announcers will struggle to instil suspense into weightlifting or pole-vauling by trying to build human drama around each incident, by turning each race into a grudge match. But the Olympic Games have no narrative suspense.



Gymnast Svetlana Boginskaya in training for Atlanta

important, that has all but vanished.

And yet and yet. Here we are again celebrating a gathering revived by a Frenchman a century ago, that many might have predicted would by now be dead on its feet. Olympic contests in poetry and drama, for instance, have indeed died. There may be a hundred other world championships, and the crude nationalism to which the Olympics pander may be synthetic (until recently almost every Olympic star was trained in America or in Russia). But the sporting world is beating a path to Atlanta, as it did to Barcelona and will do in 2000 to Sydney. The yearning to congregate under the umbrella of history is potent.

Those of us educated to put our faith in brain rather than brawn still find it compelling to watch the human body strained to its utmost. We do not see the same compulsion in the unfolding of the double helix. Challenges to science have their Nobels. Challenges to the human imagination have their Oscars, Emmys and Bookers. But the test of physical strength through running, throwing and jumping remains a popular metaphor for the human struggle.

Man is a competitive animal, but of all his competitions, none is fiercer than the race against the clock. "If you can fill the unforgiving minute, with sixty seconds' worth of distance run," was Kipling's exhortation to his son. The clock is always ticking.

Some may loathe the athleteocracy of the young. Others may ridicule the doped, tortured, unsexed bodies of the modern thoroughbred competitor. But we cannot take our eyes off a race well run. As biologists and the Guinness Book of Records attest, what distinguishes *Homo sapiens* from other animals is a relentless striving to improve physical performance. This improvement is more than just a metaphor. I believe it to be part and parcel of species confidence. It is the selfish gene at play. Through competition we do not just grow faster and stronger. We sustain the hope that we can also grow cleverer, richer, kinder and more secure.

That at least is enough to wake me for the mile.

## Stick it

THE DUKE of Edinburgh, who has been at the helm of Cowes Week for more than 30 years, has upped the yachting sponsors Skandia Life. He is refusing to carry a sticker bearing the company's logo on his boat.

Last year the Duke agreed grumpily to display the 2ft by 18in sticker proclaiming "Skandia Life Cowes Week" on the bow of his yacht, *Yeoman Twenty Eight*. But he threatened to think twice about attending the regatta if he was forced to compromise again. This year, despite pleas from Skandia Life, which provides more than £750,000 in sponsorship, he will be the one yachtsman sans sticker.

"It's not as if we are asking him to emblazon it across his forehead," complains a Skandia spokeswoman. "It's a useful and not intended to get up the nose of the Royal Family. He has to realise that if there wasn't any sponsorship, the costs would be prohibitively high."

Yesterday, Buckingham Palace dismissed the whingeing: "The Royal Family does not indulge in commercial sponsorship."

● Young Jack Churchill, great-grandson of the Prime Minister

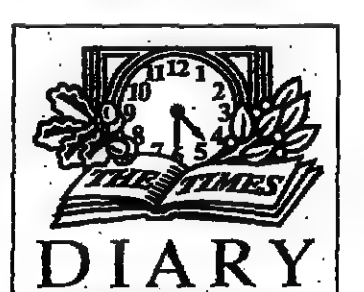
and son of Winston Churchill MP, has been learning journalism with the *Ab Fab* crowd at Teller. "He's really good," drawled a hair-flicking staffer. "I've sent him to collect my dry cleaning. Such fun."

### Viva Diana

THE SPANISH press has whipped up excitement among property sharks in Majorca with a report that the Princess of Wales has been scouring the area for a hideaway, far from the camouflaged French journalists who invaded her holiday compound on Thursday.

The broadsheet newspaper *ABC* reports that she scoured the Majorcan coast for suitable villas recently with her great friend Lady Gossamer (sic) Somerset. What Lady Cosima makes of the claims remains to be seen — she was unavailable for comment yesterday. The paper claims that the Princess has set her heart on a vernacular country house set in 50 acres. Its one drawback: next-door neighbours include the overheated film star Michael Douglas.

● Latest sporting sensation from Japan is female sumo wrestling. The male sport has taken this new direction because the big boys who



indulge in it are desperate to be recognised as Olympic sportsmen. To be included in the Olympics sports must be open to both sexes. The British Sports Association is on the case, desperate for its first women volunteers. "Sumo's based on chest power," explains Sid Hoare of the association. "Women would need a protective plate to shield their breasts."

### Phewitt

EYES SWIVELLED in the Grosvenor House hotel, London, when James Hewitt, former Guards officer and sometime paramour of the Princess of Wales, strolled through the foyer on Thursday night in a rare foray into public life. He attended a reception to help to raise money for the Riding for the Disabled Association.

Relaxing with fundraising ladies from the shores and an iced glass of champagne Palmer, Hewitt chose to ignore talk of the royal divorce and concentrate on the subject in hand: horses.

"It'll be damn hot for them in Atlanta," he conceded, "about as hot as it was when I played polo in Brunel — and that was bloody hot. I can tell you." He then turned to domestic affairs: "I'm still developing my riding school in Devon. Run into a spot of bother with the local



Hewitt: planning difficulties

planners but I'm sure we'll sort it out. It's a very exciting project."

### Euro bride

PADDY ASHDOWN's enthusiasm for Brussels is to be sealed with a European union. His daughter Kate, 31, is to marry a Frenchman, Sebastian Theurel, 26, on August 31 in a small village near the Ashdown holiday home in Burgundy.

Paddy and his wife Jane are planning a three-week pre-nuptial break at their retreat, but the Lib Dem leader is reluctant to elabo-

rate on the wedding. "Mr Ashdown does not discuss private affairs such as his daughter's marriage," says a po-faced minion. "It has nothing to do with anyone else."

### Love all

SUMMER has brought an irresistible bloom to the sun-worn skin of Martina Navratilova, tennis superstar. After months of speculation, she has spoken of her deep friendship with Hunter Reno, the niece of America's tough Attorney-General, Janet Reno.

Miss Navratilova, 39, admits she loves Miss Reno "in a way I haven't loved before" while Miss Reno, 27, refers to the tennis player as "a very special person". At Wimbledon, the two were spotted going gawey over each other. Only now, however, a year after meeting, have they admitted the true nature of their friendship.

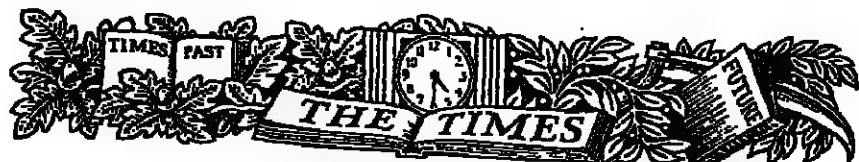
As her name implies, Hunter is something of an Ananias: six feet tall with cropped blond hair and a modelling contract with L'Oréal. Aunt Janet, who is 5ft 3in, smokes pipes while a great-aunt wrestled alligators. Friends of Miss Hunter and the nine-times Wimbledon champion speak only of delicious happiness.

P.H.S



Hunter Reno: new pairing





## BUSH WARFARE

Birt yet to convince his supporters, let alone his critics

The essence of John Birt's case for his reorganisation at the BBC is that public service broadcasting is too great a good to be relegated to a niche market. This the Director-General sees as its unavoidable fate unless it can compete effectively in the new digital, satellite and multimedia marketplaces.

Mr Birt has been wholly deliberate in seeking to revolutionise the culture of the BBC. The changes to management and programming in his first term were radical rather than evolutionary, largely driven by theory and contested by his opponents every step of the way. At the start of his second term, Mr Birt can point with pride to the BBC's success in renegotiating its Charter and, in contrast to public broadcasters in practically every other European country, holding its share of the audience.

Mr Birt's experience has given him ample reason to beware consultation. Advance warning has often reinforced resistance to change. His new plans, announced last month virtually without warning, will separate commissioning and production throughout the BBC and amalgamate news-producing and programme departments — thus concentrating its impressive productive capacity under one organisational roof. He admits that he anticipated opposition to his new plans and that this is why he gave even his most senior managers almost no notice of his decisions. He must be tempted, even now, to dismiss the ensuing uproar: what could be clearer evidence that Britain's broadcasters are world-class grousers, adept at deploying words such as quality, integrity or objectivity to justify the retention of inefficient producer cadres.

In one tiny and hitherto semi-detached islet in the BBC empire, however, such words cannot be dismissed so readily as the obfuscation of traditionalists. By the nature of its world audience, the news and programming requirements of the BBC World Service differ in important ways from those of the domestic service. It is separately funded, by the Foreign Office, and although it has long used, and paid for, domestic BBC facilities, it is separately staffed and controlled. It is a hybrid — for the historically good reasons that the service would lose credibility if it were directly controlled by government and the licence payers would be overcharged if they had to support a pillar of British foreign policy.

Last month, barely bothering to inform the Foreign Secretary, let alone World Service management, Mr Birt abruptly announced plans to merge the production of its English-language news, current affairs and general programmes within the new

structures for the domestic BBC. The manner of this announcement was guaranteed to generate a row not merely within BBC ranks but outside them. A convincing public case became immediately necessary if the substance of his plans, not just their presentation, was not to be seen as flawed.

The World Service is indeed an anomaly; and it produces its fair share of programmes that could be improved. But it is not, on the face of it, extravagant. Despite a shrinking budget it is increasing its audience — from 133 million to 140 million in the past 12 months. Nor is it afraid to innovate; it showed less fear of "producer choice" principles than many parts of the domestic service. The product, as Mr Birt acknowledges, has a reputation for impartial, dependable coverage that is famous throughout the globe.

All organisations need change, but the World Service's deservedly high reputation places Mr Birt under a clear responsibility to convince doubters that his plans will preserve its editorial independence and identity. Even if, as he has promised, the World Service will retain control of commissioning, there is genuine ground for concern whether production teams whose primary task is to cater for the domestic BBC will be able to meet its editorial needs. Domestic programmes treat much foreign news like fire-fighters; the World Service method is steady, 24-hour, global coverage, often of events and processes that have no interest for British audiences.

Mr Birt has promised a separate World Service news-production unit. That is unlikely to compensate for the weakening of the links between Bush House's English-language service and its 42 foreign-language programmes. The close relationship between regional specialists and news and current affairs producers has always influenced its news judgments. There need to be compelling grounds for a divorce.

Mr Birt replies that Foreign Office cuts will leave a £10 million gap in two years between World Service revenues and costs, and that it "needs a more flexible, loose-limbed structure in the digital age" to add to its creativity while lowering costs. Maybe it does. But the digital age means little to most World Service listeners who are equipped with nothing more than the most primitive transistor radios. The World Service is small. Whatever defects it suffers from, Mr Birt should think as hard about how its virtues can be enhanced as its vices removed. He has yet to convince his supporters, let alone his critics, that his proposals will do more good than harm.

## SWIFTER, HIGHER, DEARER

When clay pigeons were live and both hands held the javelin

The 24th modern Olympic Games opened last night on the centenary of their reinvention by Baron Pierre de Coubertin. Atlanta is five time zones behind London, which will test the endurance of British armchair sportsmen now abed. But it seems a world away from the first modern Olympiad.

In Athens in 1896 there were about 200 participants, all men, but nobody was counting. In 1996 there will be more than 10,000 young men and women. And those are just the journalists. Few of the competitors lead amateur lives away from the track, the pool and the rings. Then rowing was cancelled because of bad weather and cricket through lack of entries. In the Olympics' infancy there was live pigeon shooting, one-arm weight-lifting, the standing long-jump (after the Ancient Greeks) and swimming "for sailors".

Today the new sports introduced by the host city are beach volleyball and racing on mountain bikes. But the main difference between then and now is the zillion dollars spent and raised on staging the games that p's & q's slogans at stadiums and athletes. The press to broadcast this year's Olympics have so far raised \$900 million. And it is estimated that 3½ billion people (two-thirds

of mankind) will watch some part of the Games. They are no longer just about swifter, higher, stronger. They also grow ever bigger, richer and more political.

That need not spoil the essence of the Games. Beach volleyball is a good Olympic sport because it develops the whole physique. It is just a shame that awkwardness in the changing-room has stopped one country from sending its best male team: is this the new sport of transvestites? It is sad too that those freestyle swimming sailors from a century ago cannot meet today's beach volleyballers in an aquatic ballet that would be fit for choreography by Busby Berkeley.

It was the great BB's inspiration that made synchronised swimming an Olympic sport at Los Angeles. But almost a century ago they also competed at underwater swimming to see who could hold his breath longest. And in 1912 each competitor threw the javelin first with the right arm and then with the left, in order to produce a versatile human being. Olympian Zeus, in honour of whom the Games were founded, was just as ambidextrous with his thunderbolts. Observers of the heavy Atlantean climate predict that athletes will be hearing from Zeus themselves before the week is out.

## PARADOX IN COURT

Have I Got A U-Turn For You

In an abrupt change of mind yesterday, a High Court judge lifted an order which for several weeks had prohibited the media from reporting a contempt of court case involving the television programme *Have I Got News For You*. The order was lifted at the request of *The Times* and while we are pleased at the lifting of the order, we are still left wondering why such a sweeping restriction could ever have been imposed.

Journalists can sometimes portray contempt of court cases as battles between benighted judges and noble scribes. Archaic figures in the mould of Mr Justice Cockle-carrot are caricatured as unreasonably restricting the historic freedoms of the press and prone to expressing themselves in impenetrable language comprehensible only to men in horsehair wigs. This case has not been so simple.

Six months before the trial of Kevin and Ian Maxwell in 1994, a piece of dialogue on *Have I Got News For You* described the brothers as "heartless scheming bastards" to an audience of just over six million people. In a perfect world, the 1981 Contempt of Court Act might include a "triviality" defence along the lines that no one could possibly take such a remark seriously; flippant remarks in a comedy programme, unlikely

ever to be believed, could not threaten the fairness of a trial. The Act, however, allows no such latitude. Thus the broadcast plainly breached the law. Both the BBC and the production company were fined.

Our complaint was directed at an accompanying order which barred reporting of any part of the contempt case on the grounds that another trial involving Kevin Maxwell and others opens later this year. The point of contempt of court legislation is to protect a trial from contamination. That seldom requires more than the surgical excision of words or pictures which could influence a jury. In this case, insulating the trial from unfair comment certainly did not require suppression of any mention of the action against the BBC. The solution was out of all proportion to the problem.

Yesterday Mr Justice Auld did not just reduce the scope of the reporting ban. He did away with it altogether. We had merely requested that, apart from the offending words themselves, we be allowed to report the case in the interests of open justice. Since the judge now appears to take the view that repeating *Have I Got News For You's* banter cannot do any damage, the question remains. What exactly was the fuss about in the first place?

## Efficient energy at a fair cost

From Sir Frank Gibb, Chairman, The Energy Trust

Sir, With the world's environmental ministers gathered at the United Nations Conference on the Climate Change Convention in Geneva to debate stricter targets for cutting carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, it was heartening that the UK's Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer, spoke so positively (report, July 18, last edition; letters, June 14, 17, July 1) and particularly encouraging that the US Government has at last announced it is to take action.

But whilst the UK Government is making significant progress towards achieving the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets agreed at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, it should not be forgotten that our energy regulators also have an environmental responsibility.

When the Energy Saving Trust was established post-Rio, to bring about carbon dioxide savings from energy consumption of domestic customers and small businesses, it was on the basis that consumers would finance energy-saving schemes via a small levy on their gas and electricity bills.

For electricity consumers the notion has worked well. Since April 1994 the equivalent of £1 per annum levy on customers has financed 228 energy-saving schemes. As well as reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by more than 4 million tonnes over the lifetime of the investments, electricity customers who benefit from these schemes do so on average by £5 for every £1 of the levy invested.

Such success is in stark contrast to the limited progress this Trust has been able to make on behalf of gas consumers, where, because of the inflexible stance taken by the Director General for Gas, investment in energy efficiency has been restricted to just £4 million since 1993.

The considerable shortfall in funding that results from Ofgas's stance has partly been addressed by the Government's provision of £25 million to be spent on energy-efficiency schemes by the Trust in 1995-96, and £15 million and £10 million in the following two years. This is small change compared to the funds the Government expected to be raised for energy saving when it joined forces with major energy companies to establish the Trust.

As most commentators agree, the opening of the domestic energy markets will not initially lead to a greater emphasis on energy efficiency. Inevitably, the emphasis will be on low prices, with little concern for energy efficiency and the economic and environmental benefits that it provides. In view of the proposed CO<sub>2</sub> reductions by 2010, there can be little doubt that further support and funding for the Trust's objectives are needed now.

Further falls in the real price of energy, though welcome on a number of counts, will not help us meet our environmental commitments. The time is therefore right for the Government and the energy regulators to reconsider the depth and extent of their responsibilities and for them to realise that these go far beyond achieving the lowest possible unit price.

Yours sincerely,  
FRANK GIBB, Chairman,  
The Energy Saving Trust,  
11-12 Buckingham Gate, SW1,  
July 18.

From Professor Ian Fells, FEng, FRSE

Sir, It is difficult to reconcile the Secretary of State for the Environment's laudable exhortation to the nations meeting in Geneva to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as we proceed into the next century, with the President of the Board of Trade's exposure of the newly privatised nuclear industry of the UK to the vagaries of the market place (reports, July 16).

Nuclear power plays a vital role in keeping UK carbon dioxide emissions down, but the management of British Energy has indicated that it has no plans at the present time to build any more nuclear power stations.

Not only that but the Government Energy Paper 65 (HMSO, 1995) points out that with present policy, by 2020 only one nuclear station, Sizewell B, will still be in production; 60 per cent of UK electricity will be provided by gas and consequently greenhouse gas (carbon dioxide) emissions will have increased by 16 per cent.

There is no better illustration that some sort of UK energy strategy is required if we are to balance UK electricity supply with our international environmental obligations. The lack of an equivalent transport policy will only exacerbate the situation.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN FELLS,  
University of Newcastle,  
Department of Chemical  
and Process Engineering,  
Merz Court,  
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU,  
July 18.

## Risks of ID cards

From Mr P. G. B. Wills

Sir, I gather from Ms Liz Parratt's letter (July 18) that Liberty (formerly the National Council for Civil Liberties) wishes to deny me the freedom to carry an ID card if I want to.

Whatever next?  
Yours faithfully,  
P. G. B. WILLS,  
Far Horizons,  
Haytor, Newton Abbot, Devon,  
July 19.

## 'Obsessions' of a Victorian artist

From Mr Bernard Dunstan, RA

Sir, Anyone who knows Sickert's work well will be very sceptical about the latest revelation by Dr Anna Greutznier Robins (report and picture, July 15) of his "obsession" with sexual violence.

Certainly he painted scenes in which prostitutes figured: so did De Gas and Laurens. As for "images of exposed genitalia" in the drawings, I would have thought that these were less noticeable in Sickert's oeuvre than in that of, for example, Picasso or Courbet or even Turner. All these great artists had a wide range of subject-matter — as did Sickert — and in no way can this aspect of their work be labelled an "obsession".

The Camden Town Murder, with its associated drawings, is, I suppose, the picture particularly referred to; but Sickert was famously in the habit of playing about with his titles (sometimes to irritate Roger Fry, as he said himself). Alternative titles for this picture were *What Shall We Do for the Rent?* and *La Belle Gâche* — *The Lowly Spoiled (or Tainted) Woman*. Neither seems to have much to do with violence.

The example you reproduce, the beautiful drawing titled *Hers Persuasion*, is about as unconvincing an example of an "obsession with violence, perversion and mutilation" as could be imagined.

The figures are obviously embracing; the woman would hardly be submitting to strangulation with her head comfortably supported, nor would the man get far in strangling her using only one hand.

Yours faithfully,  
BERNARD DUNSTAN,  
10 High Park Road,  
Kew, Richmond, Surrey,  
July 15.

From Mr Huon Mallalieu

Sir, Dr Greutznier Robins is a highly respected researcher upon whose work I, like many other British art historians, have often depended. How-

ever, the interpretation of the visual evidence of Sickert's drawing, *Persuasion*, which you attribute to her today, does not convince.

Neither of the man's hands, as I see it, can be around the prostitute's neck. The left must logically be behind her right shoulder, the right below her left breast, probably in the region of her armpit. Her own left hand supports her head, and her whole pose is relaxed. Far from attacking her, the man is virtually inert. If anyone in this drawing is saying "No", it is him not her.

Sickert may indeed have been obsessed with the Camden Town murder and Jack the Ripper; but here he (and his title) surely show how the girl's professional persuasion of the man may have led to his loss of control and her death.

This is not to defend the real or imagined man, rather to defend the artist from an unjustifiable accusation of sleaziness.

Yours etc,  
HUON MALLALIEU,  
100 Mortimer Road, N1,  
July 15.

From Chief Inspector J. I. Miller

Sir, Once again the name of Sickert seems to be being linked, albeit at one remove and without the slightest shred of evidence, to the Whitechapel murders.

If a credible suspect is to be named, then that dubious honour should fall on one William Henry Burry — a man who had motive, opportunity, a proven record of violence towards women and, unlike any of the other suspects, can be shown to have fled from the East End at the conclusion of the Ripper murders, only to commit his final killing in Dundee within days of his arrival there.

Sickert is in the clear!

Yours etc,  
J. I. MILLER,  
Tayside Police,  
Police Headquarters,  
Dundee, Tayside,  
July 15.

From Mr W. H. Hatcher

Sir, Professor Michael Zander states in his article that the overall success rate of legally-aided civil actions is 92 per cent.

Most practising lawyers will not be surprised at a very high percentage success rate, bearing in mind that legal aid gives an enormous tactical advantage to the legally-aided party. As a result of this the other party, if not legally aided, will usually be very strongly advised to give in at an early stage.

It would be interesting to know the overall success rate of legally-aided civil actions if the only actions taken for the purposes of the sample were those where the case had been fully heard and decided by the court on merit.

Yours faithfully,  
W. H. HATCHER,  
Hatcher Rogers (solicitors),  
25 Castle Street,  
Shrewsbury, Shropshire,  
July 10.

mind, on this occasion, the value of retrospective legislation.

Yours truly,  
LAURENCE EVANS,  
Quill Lodge,  
Wyatts Road, Chorleywood,  
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire,  
July 18.

From Mr Denis Cox

Sir, The suggestion in your report that the Hare and Billet is a contrived pub name is deeply offensive to all of us who regularly drink at the Hare and Billet in Blackheath. The name has belonged to this pub since at least the 1740s, when it is mentioned in the Newgate Calendar as a rendezvous for local highwaymen.

I have every sympathy for Mr Winterton's and CAMRA's campaign, but we cannot allow the name of our much loved local to be associated with a Slug and Lettuce.

Yours faithfully,  
DENIS COX,  
13 Elliot Vale, SE3,  
July 17.

him to send 30 letters first class and a further 11 second class.

Since I have faith in neither, I am sending this letter by fax.

Yours faithfully,  
ADRIAN BROOKIN,  
93 Kingsley Way, N2,  
July 15.

From Mr Christopher McDouall

Sir, The answer to how many new £1 books of stamps one must buy to use all the stamps in them on first-class letters is two.

Just send one first-class letter weighing between 600g and 700g.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER MCDOUALL,  
119 Thornton Road, Cambridge,  
July 15.

Weekend Money letters, page 57

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

## Price of losing the princess as patron

From Mr Pat Spooner

Sir, As the co-founder, in 1987, of the Covent Garden Festival, I was gratified by the Princess of Wales's prompt acceptance of my invitation for her to be our patron. Her presence at gala performances greatly stimulated ticket sales and her patronage did more than anything else to put the festival firmly on the map.

The Royal Family's willingness to lend their practical and highly productive, not merely their moral, support to good causes of all kinds has never ceased to astonish me. Having for many years directed and advised on major appeals for cathedrals, hospitals and a variety of other patronised by royalty I can vouch for its immeasurable value.

The Princess's decision to relinquish her patronage (reports, July 17) is perfectly understandable under the circumstances, but it is, nonetheless, hardly surprising that so many of the charities now deprived of it should declare their disappointment and dismay.

Yours sincerely,  
A. P. SPOONER,  
22 Broadwater Rise,  
Guildford, Surrey,  
July 17.

From Mr Philip Jones

Sir, With the sadness and regrets over the royal divorce, there is added shock and surprise at the "decision" by the Princess of Wales to relinquish her service commitments as Colonel in Chief.

With one infantry battalion, a cavalry regiment and a squadron of jump jets, she hardly poses a threat to the monarchy; but her presence has been inestimable for morale, and the fact that she will no longer be Her Royal Highness should not preclude her and her regiments from continuing to enjoy links which are essentially of a family nature.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,  
PHILIP JONES (Lieutenant,  
13th/18th Royal Hussars, 1952-53),  
Clermont Hall,  
Little Cressingham,  
Thetford, Norfolk,  
July 15.

From Mr M. C. J. Kidby

Sir, Who will pay for the new letter headings of the charities that Princess Diana no longer patronises?

Yours faithfully,  
M. C. J. KIDBY,  
24 Mitchell's Road,  
Haylands, Ryde, Isle of Wight,  
July 17.

## 'Tax on reading'

From Mr P. H. Acheson-Gray

Sir, I cannot agree with the editors of *Tribune* and the *Literary Review* (letter, July 8) that a charge by one retail organisation on a small part of its turnover amounts to "a tax on reading", any more than it would on the selling prices of their own publications.

Moreover, the response they propose, that of urging the public to buy books and magazines elsewhere, seems to me, as someone unconnected with WH Smith, to be likely to exacerbate the very market situation which no doubt prompted the charge in the first place.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK ACHESON-GRAY,  
Severn House,  
Eriswell Crescent, Burwood Park,  
Walton-on-Thames, Surrey,  
July 9.

## Griddle riddle

From Mr Raymond Harris

Sir, I find it hard to believe that Mrs Shelagh Hargreaves's great aunt (letter, July 18; see also letter, July 15) would ever have eaten scones other than with butter; but may we please know how she pronounced "margarine"?

Yours truly,  
RAYMOND HARRIS,  
Savage Club, 1 Whitehall Place, SW1,  
July 18.

From Mrs Angela M. Willbourn

Sir, Surely the definitive wrong pronunciation of "scone" is given in Sir John Betjeman's satirical *How to get on in Society*, first published in a *Time and Tide* magazine competition in the early 1950s.

The last four lines are:  
Milk and then just as it comes dear?  
I'm afraid the preserve's full of mores:  
Beg pardon, I'm selling the dainties  
With afternoon teas and scones.

Yours faithfully,  
ANGELA M. WILLBOURN,  
Aston Cottage, Aston,  
Nr Stevenage, Hertfordshire,  
July 18.

## Ball point

From Mr James M. Burns

Sir, Your article on the popular Italian golfer Costantino Rocca (Sport, July 17), tells us: "He also signed autographs by the dozen — it is, incidentally, a signature that is bold, sweeping and exuberant, written *con brio*." Surely, "con Brio"?

Yours faithfully,  
J. M. BURNS,  
26 Whitehall Park Road, W4,  
July 18.





## COURT CIRCULAR

## BUCKINGHAM PALACE

July 19: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning arrived at Bristol Temple Meads Station and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Bristol (Mr James Telford).

Her Majesty drove to Aardman Animations Limited and was received by Mr Peter Lord (Director) and the Lord Mayor of Bristol (Councillor Mrs Joan McIlwain).

The Queen saw excerpts from the Oscar winning films of Nick Park and other work of the company.

Her Majesty afterwards toured the building, viewing films in production, and unveiled the Cinema 100 Centenary plaque.

The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, later visited the new Ministry of Defence Procurement Executive Building at Abbey Wood and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwell), the Rt Hon Michael Portillo MP (Secretary of State for Defence) and Sir Robert Walmsley (Chief of Defence Procurement).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness toured the building, visiting the nursery unit, viewing displays on purchasing work for the Armed Services and meeting members of staff.

The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, afterwards honoured Sir Robert Walmsley with her presence at Luncheon.

Her Majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, this afternoon officially opened the Abbey Wood building and witnessed a flypast.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning opened the Pacific of Engineers Merchant Venturers Building, Bristol University.

The Baroness Miller of Hendon (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the departure of the President of the Republic of Iceland and bade farewell to Her Excellency on behalf of The Queen.

The Lord Lucas of Meir (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the departure of the Governor-General of Tuvalu and Lady Manuella and bade farewell to Her Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
July 19: The Prince Edward, Chairman of the International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this evening left Manton International Airport, Kent, for Malta.

On arrival in Malta His Royal Highness was received by the British High Commissioner (His Excellency Mr Graham Archer).

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer is in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
July 19: The Princess Royal, Member of the International Olympic Committee, and President, British Olympic Association, this evening attended the Opening Ceremony of the XXVI Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America.

CLARENCE HOUSE  
July 19: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, this afternoon arrived at Walpole Castle.

The Hon Mrs Rhodes and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE  
July 19: The Prince of Wales this morning arrived at Royal Air Force Lyneham from the United States of America.

Mr Stephen Lamport, Lieutenant Commander John Levery RN and Miss Sandra Henry were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE  
July 19: The Duke of Gloucester, accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester, this afternoon took the Salute at a performance of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court, London SW5.

YORK HOUSE  
ST JAMES'S PALACE  
July 19: The Duke of Kent, President, Action Japan, this afternoon received Mr Toyohiko, Director General, Japanese External Trade Relations Office, at Kingsgate House, Victoria Street, London SW1.

His Royal Highness, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this afternoon attended an Away Day, St Ermin's Hotel, Canon Street, London, SW1.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS  
TODAY: The Duke of York will attend the Open Golf Championship at the Royal Lytham and St Annes Club at 11.30.

TOMORROW: The Duke of York will open the World Wheelchair Games at the Goutum Sports Centre, Stoke Mandeville, at 2.30.

## Latest wills

Mr Edward Eastway Thomas, of Chichester, West Sussex, naval intelligence expert and historian, one of the team which broke Axis Enigma cyphers and supplied the Allied intelligence system code-named Ultra which helped to win the Second World War, left estate valued at £421,007 net.

He left £1,000 each to the Edward Thomas Fellowship, a trust for the study of the life and work of the poet, and £10,000 to the Edward Thomas Society, a trust for the study of the life and work of the poet.

Mr Peter Bernard Scausland, of Sheringham, Norfolk, the painter and diarist, left estate valued at £343,591 net.

Baron Jay of Battersea, of Minister Lovell, Oxfordshire, President, Board of Trade 1964-67, Labour MP for Battersea 1968-83, left estate valued at £196,159 net.

He left £100,000 to the Jay Foundation, a trust for the study of the life and work of the poet, and £10,000 to the Jay Foundation, a trust for the study of the life and work of the poet.

Mr Ralph Merton Bassam, of Wiltshire, Chairman, Industrialist and President, Confederation of British Industry, 1974-76, left estate valued at £148,955 net.

He left £100,000 to the Merton Foundation, a trust for the study of the life and work of the poet, and £10,000 to the Merton Foundation, a trust for the study of the life and work of the poet.

Mr John Merton Bassam, of Wiltshire, Chairman, Industrialist and President, Confederation of British Industry, 1974-76, left estate valued at £148,955 net.

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## Dinners

Royal College of Radiologists  
Dr Patricia Wilkie delivered the 40th Crookshank Lecture to the Royal College of Radiologists yesterday at the Royal College of Physicians, Professor Albert Bart.

Professor Lynne Reid, Sir James Savile and Sir Richard Southwood were admitted as Honorary Fellows. Afterwards, Dr Wilkie was the guest of honour at a dinner held at 38 Portland Place. The President of the Royal College of Radiologists and Mrs Brindle were the hosts.

Institute of Legal Executives  
The Institute of Legal Executives held an inauguration reception and dinner last night at the Marriott Hotel, Leeds, for the newly-elected president, Mr Anthony Webster, Mr G. Phin, Principal Inspector of Schools, was the guest speaker. Among those present were:

Mr Justice and Lady Leighton, Director of Legal Services, Judge E. J. L. Lamb, the President of the Law Society, Mr G. Phin, Principal Inspector of Schools, was the guest speaker. Among those present were:

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Mr Isaac Stern, the violinist: 76 tomorrow

Dame Diana Rigg, the actress: 58 today

## Weekend birthdays

TODAY: The Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair, 76; Sir Christopher Benson, chairman, Sun Alliance Group, 63; Lady Margaret Colville, 63; Professor Sir John Dacre, haematologist, 84; M. Jacques Deleau, former President, Commission of the European Community, 71; Sir Antony Driver, former chairman, South West Thames Regional Health Authority, 76; Mr E.O.M. Ellidge, chairman, BTR, 61; General Sir Jack Harman, 76; Mrs Sylvia Heal, former MP, 54; Sir Edmund Hillary, 67; Mr Sir Michael to reach the summit of Mount Everest, 77; Mr Edward Leigh, 46; Lord McGowan, 54; Mr Ian Magri, 40; Mr Elizabeth Manners, former Headmistress, Felixstowe College, 79; Lord Palumbo, 61; Sir Jeffrey Petersen, former diplomat, 76; Mr Walter Plowright, veterinarian, 73; Mr Michael Quinn, chef, 50; Mr A.J.D. Rees, former Recorder, Edinburgh Academy, 53; Viscount Slim, 68; Elizabeth Tucker, Headmistress, Headington School, Oxford, 60; Dame Veronica Wedgwood, OM, historian, 86; Mr John Whyte, former managing director, British Telecom, 73.

TOMORROW: Professor Heather Angel, wildlife photographer, 55; Professor

Frank Ashley, Dean of the Dental School, United Medical and Dental Schools, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals, 54; Don Aidan Belleney, former Head Master, Downside School, 46; Sir Nigel Broadbent, former honorary president, Trafalgar House, 62; Sir Andrew Buchanan, Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, 59; Mr John Burrow, Chief Constable, Essex, 61; Dame Joyce Daws, thoracic surgeon, 71; Sir Stephen Egerton, former diplomat, 64; Miss Buchi Emecheta, writer, 52; Canon Donald Gray, Speaker's Chaplain, 66; Mr Norman Jewison, film director, 70; Mr Ian Judge, theatre director, 50; Sir Kirby Laing, former chairman, Laing Properties, 80; Mr Gerald Malone, MP, 46; Dr Jonathan Miller, film, theatre and opera director, 62; Mr R.S. Napier, chief executive, Redland, 49; Major-General the Duke of Norfolk, KG, 84; Mr Bill Parry, actor, 70; Mr Julian Pettifer, broadcaster, 61; Lieutenant-General Sir Stuart Pringle, 68; Mr Karl Reiss, film director, 70; Mr Michael St John Parker, Headmaster, Abingdon School, 55; Mr D.J. Trevelyan, former Principal, Mansfield College, Oxford, 67; Mr Robin Williams, actor and comedian, 44; Sir Ian Wood, chairman, John Wood Group, 54; Mr Peter Wright, former Chief Constable, South Yorkshire, 67.

## Church of Scotland

Ordinations and Inductions  
The Rev James Bain to St Paul's, Perth.

The Rev Michael Collins to Creich, Perth.

The Rev Ian D Macdonald to Kirk O'Field, Edinburgh.

The Rev Thomas J R Macdonald to Glasgow and Kilmarnock.

The Rev Fiona C Ross, assistant to Perth High with Trinity, Perth.

The Rev Robert F Bordin to Portland, Tivoli.

The Rev Roderick G Hamilton, assistant to Aberdeen, Aberdeen.

The Rev Ian D Macdonald to Kirk O'Field, Edinburgh.

The Rev Thomas J R Macdonald to Glasgow and Kilmarnock.

The Rev Fiona C Ross, assistant to Perth High with Trinity, Perth.

## Church services tomorrow

St Andrew's Cathedral, Perth, 10.30 AM. Rev J. Bain.

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# JOHN AGAR

when the properties were handed over, so that if the resolution were carried it would not get rid of hunting the stag over their Exmoor property.



## NEWS

## Girl, 13, murdered on French trip

A 13-year-old English girl was raped and suffocated in a Brittany youth hostel during a school trip. Caroline Dickinson, a second-year pupil at Launceston College, Cornwall, was killed while four girls slept in the room beside her.

One of them told police she thought she heard a noise in the early hours of the morning, but assumed Caroline was having a nightmare. Pages 1, 6

## Terrorist 'boarded' doomed flight

The American Government was investigating reports that an Arab terrorist boarded TWA Flight 800 in Athens and that an Iranian group may have placed a bomb on the jet which crashed near Long Island, killing 230. Pages 1, 14, 15

## Duke to quit Navy

The Duke of York, 36, is to leave the Royal Navy in two years' time after nearly 20 years' distinguished service. Pages 1, 6

## Olympics open

With the glitter of sequins, fireworks and \$300m worth of security, the 26th Olympic Games opened. Pages 1, 21, 46, 48

## Life for bag thief

A judge jailed a 19-year-old handbag thief for life, saying he felt obliged to protect the public for as long as possible from the "predator". Page 3

## Bus off route

The bus which crashed into a low bridge, injuring fifty children in Cheshire, was not permitted to use the route. Page 5

## Holiday by the siege

The Princess of Wales and Duchess of York were holidaying under siege after three photographers were arrested. Page 6

## Dublin ghosts go to the wall

Crowds are gathering at a council house near Dublin after a family reported ghosts dancing on a wall. A psychic psychologist says the figures are car lights reflected off a shed roof, but the spectacle stays popular — especially after closing time. Page 3

## Government guilty

A judge blamed the Government for the deaths of people who contracted CJD after being given growth hormone from corpses. Page 9

## Christian aid

A Christian group called Fundamentalists Anonymous is to be launched to help people struggling with extremist churches. Page 10

## Charges dropped

The Lord Chancellor has shelved plans under which civil court claimants would pay a daily hearing fee. Page 11

## Karadzic quits

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader indicted as a war criminal, resigned from all public office. Page 13

## Small party

The American Friends of the Mary Rose gave a party for the Prince of Wales, but few went. Page 15

## NATURE NOTES

**Sour Grapes**  
(*Heathus antagonistus*)  
This fruit does not mature well. After eighty years on the vine it can become bitter and twisted, often getting the pip.

Fig. 1B

The variety is thin-skinned and excellent for treading.



Fig. 1A



## OPINION

**Bush warfare:** The news and programming requirements of the BBC World Service differ from those of the domestic service. John Birt has yet to convince his supporters, let alone his critics, that his proposed mergers will do more good than harm. Page 21

## LETTERS

**Climate change and energy efficiency:** Sickert and artistic obsessions: ID cards Page 21

## CULTURE

**Simon Jenkins:** The airwaves are to be saturated with material that meets television's dream requirement, to keep the maximum number of sets on. Page 20

## SCIENCE

**Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe:** landscape architect; Major-General Robert Turner Cain, chairman of Anglia Maltins; John Agar, chemist. Page 23

## ARTS

**Prize land:** An art student has won £10,000 for a sculpture primarily consisting of a bag of lard. Page 17

## TELEVISION

**El Ver hits town:** Mexico's Elvis Presley impersonator, El Ver, in London. Page 17

## THEATRE

**Emerald spoils:** Six new Irish films, which have gone on show at the Gaiety Film Fleadh, include a controversial one about IRA hunger strikers. Page 18

## BUSINESS

**Bas charges:** The chairman of British Bas was one of two men arrested and charged with corruption in connection with gifts totalling £600,000. Page 25

## SPORT

**Rolls-Royce blow:** More than 2,500 jobs are at risk after the aerospace and engineering group said it would sell or close two loss-making businesses. Page 25

## FINANCE

**Markets:** The FT-SE 100 index rose 17.1 points to 3,710.5 on the foreign exchange. Sterling rose .24 cents to \$1.5474 and .18 pfennigs to DM2.3038. Page 30

## SPORT

**Golf:** Paul McGinley had a hole-in-one at the 9th, and equalled the course record in the second round of the Open Championship at Lytham. Page 48

## CRICKET

**Cricket:** Jason Gallian scored 312 for Lancs v Derbyshire. Page 48

## ATHLETICS

**Olympic Games:** Shane Healy, a runner, hopes his Atlanta appearance will reunite him with his mother and sister. Page 46

## SECTIONS

## MAGAZINE

Lucy Dahl: The author on life with a legend. Page 8  
Paul Scofield: Alan Franks meets Britain's best ever actor. Page 16

## WEEKEND

Child talent: photography competition. Page 1



Reader offer: take a child to the zoo — free. Page 18  
World golf: 90,000 Britons tee off. Pages 20, 21

## 10 15

The weekly magazine for young Times readers  
Gold: Sheryl Swoopes for basketball victory

## VISION

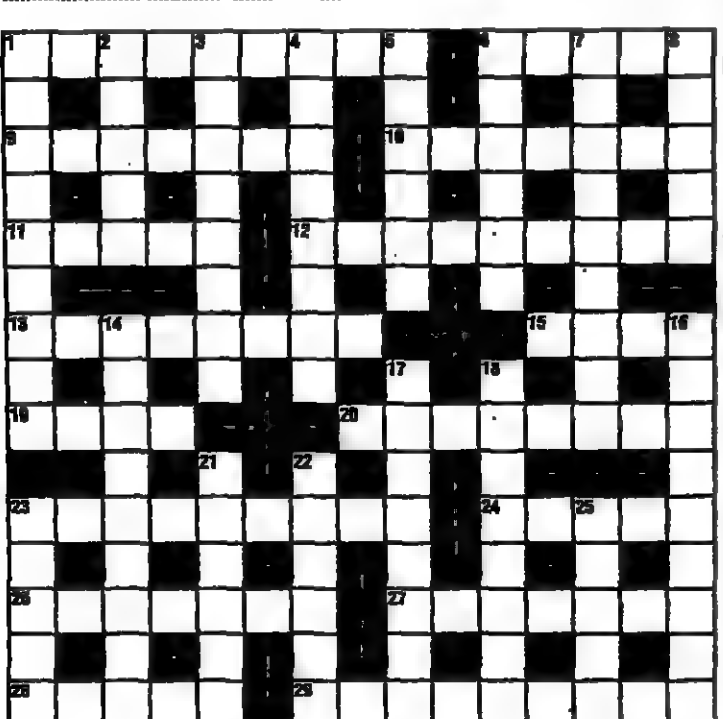


Carmen Miranda: Bananas is My Business. Monday Channel 4, 11.40pm  
Adelco Patrick: comedy. Thursday BBC1 10pm

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,225

**ABERLOUR**  
A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



- ACROSS**
- 1 Drug addict should stop behaving like that! (4,3,2).
  - 6 American tool used by 7 is saw (5).
  - 9 Country allocating money to road construction (7).
  - 10 Overprotect half our capital in the City (7).
  - 11 Farm labourer goes about a foot (5).
  - 12 Author said play could provide what resting actors need (9).
  - 13 Dad's backing Mum, perhaps — that's evident (8).
  - 15 Runner reaching half-way point is complacent (4).
  - 19 King's knight moved back — it could be used in incisive attack (4).
  - 20 Parental, in a way (8).
  - 23 Vote against accepting seven points for this (9).
  - 24 Put out by climax in speech (5).
  - 26 He's read version that's cut (7).
  - 27 Finally firing more work-shy workman (7).
  - 28 Reserve parking place (3-2).
  - 29 It proves ownership of river in noble setting (5,4).
- DOWN**
- 1 Inferior guy securing Egyptian flag (9).
  - 2 Doctor to treat black eye (5).
  - 3 Unexceptional old American bicycle (8).
  - 4 Previous state adopted by iron (8).
  - 5 Bar of soap, say, permitted to be added to hull (6).
  - 6 A pound added to some capital in the States (6).
  - 7 Venue for races in a film one's shot (4,2,3).
  - 8 Note car on motorway (5).
  - 14 Hobby of some recently seen in pursuit of letter (9).
  - 16 Bloomer gondolier might make if daughter takes one's place (9).
  - 17 Staircase containing an opening for ventilation (8).
  - 18 Worker sometimes unpunctual, forming a pattern (8).
  - 21 Something like an inch taken from slip in blue (6).
  - 22 Gang joined by Italian robber (6).
  - 23 He's gone to pot, according to Keats (5).
  - 25 One engineer understanding question paper — a lot (5).

**Solution to Puzzle No 20,219**

CASTLE PEGGEDOUT  
A W N R U B E H  
B O A R D R O O M B U F F E T  
R O M O F E R C S  
C O I N L O C A T I O N  
L U G E R E N P A P O O S E  
E R P E R U X  
T O U C H E D P I E R R O T  
S R I S R  
D E T E N T I O N C O M B O  
U A Y E H R I V  
M O C H A D O O L I T T L E  
P E L U L E R R  
S T A R A P P L E E R E C T

**Solution to Puzzle No 20,224**

P I N E M A R T E N E P I C  
O U A E N O H  
S E C O N D H A N D A R E A  
T L S E E P T R  
S U A D A N R I  
M U S O U A S H S T O D G E  
A C E P H U  
T R O P H Y C A R E L E S S  
T R I V S R A E  
E X T R E M I S T B E S T  
R O R R I R T S  
I S L E P A R T I A L I T Y  
N A G L I R Y  
G O N E G O V E R N A N C E

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: J. L. Thorne, Hemei Hempstead, Herfordshire; A. Colby, Wiltshire; J. J. Jephtham, Devonshire; West Yorkshire; R. Macdonald, Lancashire; A. McLaughlin, London.

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## THE TIMES WEATHERCAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, call 0800 1000 followed by the code.

Region	Code	Forecast
Greater London	701	
Kent/Surrey/Sussex	702	
East of England & NW	703	
Devon & Cornwall	704	
Wales/Gouce/Avon/Somerset	705	
Stratford/Bucks/Chesh	706	
Bedfordshire	707	
Northampton/Cambs	708	
West Mid & Shropshire & Hereford	709	
Shropshire/Stafford & W. Midlands	710	
Central Midlands	711	
East Midlands	712	
Lincoln & Humberside	713	
Dyfed & Pembro	714	
Gloucester & W. Wales	715	
NW England	716	
W & S Yorks & Lakes	717	
N England	718	
Cumbria & Lake District	719	
SW Scotland	720	
W Central Scotland	721	
Edin & Fife/Highland & Borders	722	
E Central Scotland	723	
Greenwich & E Highlands	724	
NW Scotland	725	
Orkney, Shetland & Shetland	726	
N Ireland	727	

Weathercast is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic forecasts information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the code.

Location	Code	Forecast
London & SE Thames, roadworks	731	
Area within M25	732	
East of Kent/Essex/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	733	
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Berks	734	
M25 London Orbital only	735	
National traffic and roadworks	736	
West Country	737	
Wales	738	
Midlands	739	
East Angles	740	
North-west England	741	
North-east England	742	
Scotland	743	
Northern Ireland	744	
AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.		

## HOURS OF DARKNESS

For the latest AA traffic forecasts information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the code.

Location	Code	Forecast
London 9.06 pm to 5.09 am	745	
Edinburgh 9.15 pm to 5.19 am	746	
Belfast 9.41 pm to 5.45 am	747	
Manchester 9.24 pm to 5.06 am	748	
Preston 9.21 pm to 5.07 am	749	

## TODAY

For the latest AA traffic forecasts information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the code.

Location	Code	Forecast
London 9.06 pm to 5.09 am	750	
Edinburgh 9.15 pm to 5.19 am	751	
Belfast 9.41 pm to 5.45 am	752	
Manchester 9.24 pm to 5.06 am	753	
Preston 9.21 pm to 5.07 am	754	

## TOMORROW

For the latest AA traffic forecasts information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the code.

Location	Code	Forecast
London 9.06 pm to 5.09 am	755	
Edinburgh 9.15 pm to 5.19 am	756	
Belfast 9.41 pm to 5.45 am	757	
Manchester 9.24 pm to 5.06 am	758	
Preston 9.21 pm to 5.07 am	759	

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

For the latest AA traffic forecasts information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the code.

Location	Code	Forecast
London 9.06 pm to 5.09 am	760	
Edinburgh 9.15 pm to 5.19 am	761	
Belfast 9.41 pm to 5.45 am	762	
Manchester 9.24 pm to 5.06 am	763	
Preston 9.21 pm to 5.07 am	764	

## FORECAST

For the latest AA traffic forecasts information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the code.

Location	Code	Forecast
London & SE Thames, roadworks	765	
Area within M25	766	
East of Kent/Essex/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	767	
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Berks	768	
M25 London Orbital only	769	
National traffic and roadworks	770	
West Country	771	
Wales	772	
Midlands	773	
East Angles	774	
North-west England	775	
North-east England	776	
Scotland	777	
Northern Ireland	778	
AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.		

## AROUND BRITAIN

For the latest AA traffic forecasts information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the code.

Location	Code	Forecast
London 9.06 pm to 5.09 am	779	
Edinburgh 9.15 pm to 5.19 am	780	
Belfast 9.41 pm to 5.45 am	781	
Manchester 9.24 pm to 5.06 am	782	
Preston 9.21 pm to 5.07 am	783	

## TODAY

For the latest AA traffic forecasts information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the code.

Location	Code	Forecast
London 9.06 pm to 5.09 am	784	
Edinburgh 9.15 pm to 5.19 am	785	
Belfast 9.41 pm to 5.45 am	786	
Manchester 9.24 pm to 5.06 am	787	
Preston 9.21 pm to 5.07 am	788	

## TOMORROW

For the latest AA traffic forecasts information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the code.

Location	Code	Forecast
London 9.06 pm to 5.09 am	789	
Edinburgh 9.15 pm to 5.19 am	790	
Belfast 9.41 pm to 5.45 am	791	
Manchester 9.24 pm to 5.06 am	792	
Preston 9.21 pm to 5.07 am	793	

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

For the latest AA traffic forecasts information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the code.

Location	Code	Forecast
London 9.06 pm to 5.09 am	794	
Edinburgh 9.15 pm to 5.19 am	795	
Belfast 9.41 pm to 5.45 am	796	
Manchester 9.24 pm to 5.06 am	797	
Preston 9.21 pm to 5.07 am	798	

## FORECAST

For the latest AA traffic forecasts information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the code.

Location	Code	Forecast
London & SE Thames, roadworks	799	
Area within M25	800	
East of Kent/Essex/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	801	
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Berks	802	
M25 London Orbital only	803	
National traffic and roadworks	804	
West Country	805	
Wales	806	
Midlands	807	
East Angles	808	
North-west England	809	
North-east England	810	
Scotland	811	
Northern Ireland	812	
AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.		

## AROUND BRITAIN

For the latest AA traffic forecasts information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the code.

Location	Code	Forecast
London 9.06 pm to 5.09 am	813	
Edinburgh 9.15 pm to 5.19 am	814	
Belfast 9.41 pm to 5.45 am	815	
Manchester 9.24 pm to 5.06 am	816	
Preston 9.21 pm to 5.07 am	817	

## TODAY

For the latest AA traffic forecasts information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the code.

Location	Code	Forecast
London 9.06 pm to 5.09 am	818	
Edinburgh 9.15 pm to 5.19 am	819	
Belfast 9.41 pm to 5.45 am	820	
Manchester 9.24 pm to 5.06 am	821	
Preston 9.21 pm to 5.07 am	822	

## TOMORROW

For the latest AA traffic forecasts information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the code.

Location	Code	Forecast
London 9.06 pm to 5.09 am	823	
Edinburgh 9.15 pm to 5.19 am	824	
Belfast 9.41 pm to 5.45 am	825	
Manchester 9.24 pm to 5.06 am	826	
Preston 9.21 pm to 5.07 am	827	

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

For the latest AA traffic forecasts information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the code.

52 f	Mica	27 81 c	Tur
2	Oslo	19 66 f	Tur
72 s	Panama	25 77 s	Wes
5	Poland	31 88 s	Wes
2 72 s	Perth	17 63 f	Wes
82 s	Prague	13 56 c	Wes
4 75 s	Roskilde	11 52 f	Wes
2 72 s	Rhodes	29 94 s	Wes
105 f	Rio de J	21 70 f	Zur





**EXECUTIVE VOICE 26**

**Peter Davis puts in a plea for simpler pensions**

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Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday

**WORKING WEEK 27**

**Executive on the fast track to success at Castrol**



**SPORT 40-48**

**Irish runner uses Games to track long-lost mother**

**THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF BAT INDUSTRIES**

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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JULY 20 1996

## Rolls-Royce retreat puts 2,500 jobs on the line

By Eric Reguly

ROLLS-ROYCE, the aerospace and engineering group, has placed two loss-making steam-generation businesses on the auction block and said that 2,500 jobs would be at risk if no buyers are found. The strategic retreat will cost it a total of £248 million.

Parsons Power Generation Systems, based in Newcastle upon Tyne, and International Combustion, of Derby, together lost about £30 million on sales of £280 million in 1995 and were showing no sign of improvement this year because of intense competition from companies

such as Siemens, Asea Brown Boveri and General Electric.

Sir Ralph Robins, Rolls-Royce's chairman, said a strategic review determined that "it is increasingly unlikely that Rolls-Royce can develop a leading global position in this sector of the market."

Parsons, which employs 1,600, and International Combustion, with 900 workers, became part of Rolls-Royce's industrial power group with its acquisition of Northern Engineering Industries in 1989 for £304 million. Parsons, one of the biggest employers in the Newcastle, specialises in the design, construction and

management of large steam-power projects. Combustion International manufactures the combustion systems.

A spokesman said that Rolls-Royce had been approached by potential purchasers for the divisions, but there was no guarantee they would have new owners by the end of the year. Rolls-Royce expects the businesses to be sold separately and is to appoint an investment bank to screen the applicants. There will be no immediate job losses, although employment will gradually decline as contracts reach completion. A £170 million charge is to be taken in the first half and will be reflected in the

interim results, due on August 29.

In spite of the charge, Rolls-Royce said that it "anticipates that performance will continue to improve in the second half" because of strong sales in the aerospace group, which makes Rolls-Royce and Allison engines for military and civil aircraft.

After the sale or closure of Parsons and Combustion International, Rolls-Royce will concentrate on the market for small power-generation systems based on derivatives of aero gas turbines, such as the Trent and the WR21.

Temps, page 30

## Bus chief charged by SFO

By Robert Miller

THE founder and chairman of British Bus, the UK's third-largest bus company, was one of two men arrested yesterday by the Serious Fraud Office and charged with corruption in connection with gifts totalling £600,000.

Dawson Thomas Williams, 57, from Ringwood in Hampshire, who started British Bus in 1992, and Ian Harvey, 39, of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, an officer of the First National Bank of Boston, were arrested when they reported to Bishopsgate police station in the City yesterday.

The arrests followed an investigation codenamed Ausonia. The men were charged on 15 counts of corruptly accepting payments worth £1 million as "inducements or rewards" in connection with five companies, including three in the British Bus Group, as well as Drawlane Transport Group and Surecapital.

The £600,000 figure on the charge sheet was arrived at

after taking into account possible gains tax liabilities.

The arresting officer was Detective Sergeant Tony Waters of the City of London Police, and the year-long SFO investigation was headed by Peter Kiernan, an in-house fraud office lawyer for the past four years. Mr Kiernan has previously worked on some of the SFO's high-profile cases, among them Barings and Polly Peck International.

Mr Williams and Mr Harvey, who surrendered their passports, were released on bail and ordered to report to the police weekly. Mr Williams's wife provided sureties of £100,000 and business colleagues of Mr Harvey put up £30,000.

The privately-owned British Bus company is the target of an agreed bid worth £282 million from Cowie Group. A statement issued yesterday by NM Rothschild, Cowie's adviser on the forthcoming £186 million rights issue that will pay for the British Bus acquisition, noted that Mr Williams has been charged with offences under the 1906 Prevention of Corruption Act.

It is understood that under the terms of the Cowie takeover deal Mr Williams could make around £10 million.

In line with the terms of the Cowie acquisition deal, Mr Williams resigned yesterday from the board of British Bus. The Rothschild statement said that Cowie had received indemnities relating to the SFO's investigation and added: "The board of Cowie, after discussion with its advisers, reaffirms its belief that any further outcome arising from this investigation should not have a material adverse impact on British Bus, or the enlarged group."

British Bus, the UK's largest privately owned bus company, employs more than 11,000 staff. It was formed after a management buyout of National Express, the coach, bus and airport operator, and had planned to become a stock market company, valued at around £250 million, but this was shelved as a result of the SFO investigation.

The British Bus acquisition will enable Cowie, who will take on the private company's £100 million of debt, to become a national bus operator, adding services in Northumbria, North Wales, Scotland and the Midlands.



Richard Gamble, left, and Roger Taylor, Royal and Sun Alliance deputy chairman

## Insurers' merger now flying

TRADING began yesterday in shares of the newly created Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance, created through a £54 billion merger of the composites Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance (Marianne Curphey writes).

Shares in the merged group edged up 5p, to 370p.

About 5,000 jobs will go in restructuring, with 80 per cent of job losses expected in the UK, where both companies have head offices. The new group, of which Richard Gamble is chief executive, aims to save £175 million, about the same as reorganisation costs.

Sun Alliance has changed its name to Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance, which will be the holding company for the new group.

## Somerfield cuts flotation price

By George Syvill

SOMERFIELD, the supermarket price wars by Tesco, Sainsbury, Safeway and Asda.

However, last night's decision to press ahead with the flotation but at a reduced price will also reduce the value of the £5 million bonus that David Simons, the chief executive, will receive upon successful flotation of the company.

The decision to float at 160p a share also leaves the company on a low stock market rating. The shares will yield a high 8.3 per cent and stand on a multiple of 7.2 times actual earnings.

Somerfield has not been alone. Allied Carpets this week cut its asking price from £250 million to £189 million.

overshadowed in the super-market price wars by Tesco, Sainsbury, Safeway and Asda.

However, last night's decision to press ahead with the flotation but at a reduced price will also reduce the value of the £5 million bonus that David Simons, the chief executive, will receive upon successful flotation of the company.

## Funds throw Sterling a lifeline

By Martin Waller



Lord Sterling: embattled

A CORE of supportive fund managers could assure the survival of Lord Sterling as chairman of P&O, the embattled shipping to transport group that has underperformed the rest of the stock market by 50 per cent over the past ten years.

Lord Sterling's position has been undermined by research purporting to show that three quarters of P&O's institutional shareholders want him to stand down. But institutions speaking for a quarter or more

of the company are thought to be prepared to give the existing management another two years' grace.

None were talking formally last night, but it is thought that fund managers such as Mercury Asset Management, Gartmore, the Prudential and Schroders have indicated privately to Lord Sterling that their patience is not yet exhausted. His position was boosted by the decision of Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to allow P&O and its

Channel ferry rival Stena to consider a merger.

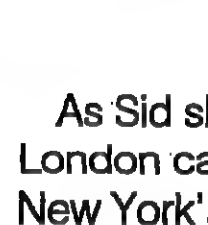
Lord Sterling's critics will be handed further ammunition next week when first-half operating figures are released, ahead of a set of interim figures that even Sterling loyalists accept will be awful.

City disenchanted with P&O management stems from its failure to make disposals, particularly of property assets, that has left the balance sheet overstretched and the dividend barely covered.

## WEEKEND MONEY



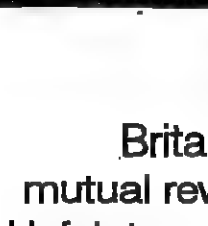
**33 Anne Ashworth on the building society waiting game**



**31 As Sid shivers, London catches New York's cold**



**32 Loss of benefit. The penalties for live-in lovers**



**32 Britannia's mutual rewards. Unfair to savers?**



**37 Do you want to be in pictures? How to invest in films**

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET		
FT-SE 100	3710.5	(+17.1)
Yield	4.09%	
FT-SE A All shares	1641.45	(+9.04)
Nikkei	21476.28	(+80.13)
Dow Jones	5438.81	(-27.37)
S&P Composite	638.81	(-4.75)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	8 3/8%	(8 3/8%)
Yield	6.95%	(6.92%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long bill	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)
STERLING		
New York	1.5462	(1.5449)
London	1.5474	(1.5455)
DM	2.2022	(2.2008)
DM	7.8012	(7.8120)
Sfr	1.8824	(1.8841)
Yen	167.48	(167.98)
F index	94.7	(94.5)
DOLLAR		
London	1.4890	(1.4825)
DM	5.0465	(5.0545)
Sfr	1.2170	(1.2195)
Yen	106.24	(106.43)
S index	96.2	(96.5)
Tokyo close Yen 108.20		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$19.00	(\$18.95)
GOLD		
London close	\$385.15	(\$383.75)
* denotes midday trading price		

## Shares steady

The London stock market ended a volatile week on a steady note, with investors taking their lead from soothing comments on the US economy by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, and an 87-point leap overnight on Wall Street.

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Now is a good time to get on board Mercury European Privatisation Trust plc.

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First name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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ASSET MANAGEMENT

BRITAIN'S LEADING INVESTMENT HOUSE



## To put it simply, everybody needs a proper pension

When he died in 1616 at the ripe old age of 52, Shakespeare was truly the grand old man of English literature. Today he would be merely middle aged and looking forward to another 30 years of active life, a few more plays and a serialisation of his biography in a Sunday supplement.

Advances in medical science and changes in lifestyle and working practices mean that we will all now live a great deal longer than our grandfathers and even our fathers. By the year 2020, 18 per cent of the UK population will be 65 or over. On an average day in that year there will be 11 million pensioners enjoying retirement, with only another 38 million citizens at work. And retirement will not be just a couple of years' rest at the end of a long working life, but a "holiday" of 15 or 20 years and hopefully much longer.

Funding these long periods of retirement for such a large section of the population is an expense that the state can no longer afford to

bear on its own. More must be done to encourage individuals to provide sufficient funds to purchase a decent pension for their retirement. Currently 40 per cent of the population are relying on the basic state pension to fund their retirement, while less than 1 per cent of pensioners make full use of the tax relief available to them when funding their pension. The costs of building up enough capital to provide for a reasonable pension means that it is important to start saving early. However, a lack of interest and, perhaps more important, a lack of understanding mean that this is left far too late.

As things stand today, people have a bewildering array of pension savings options available, some of which they can use and others which they cannot, depending on whether they are employed or self-employed.

If you are employed and your employer runs a pension scheme, it may be defined benefit or money purchase. Different rules apply to savers in each case. It may not be a

scheme at all. It could be a grouping of personal pensions which just looks like a scheme and so on and so forth.

Our pensions system is labyrinthine in its complexity and is being made more and more complex with extra layers of regulations being added as each year passes. Even those who work in the industry now find it hard to understand pensions and, more importantly, to explain them to other people.

People struggling to understand how to save for their retirement must look enviously at the simplicity of products such as Peps. It is absurd that it is now easier for the average man in the street to invest in the stock market than to put money aside for a pension.

To combat this, Prudential has produced, in conjunction with a number of other pensions industry experts and individuals from the National Association of Pension Funds and the Consumers' Association, a report which, under the banner of simplifying pensions, suggests a number of common-

### EXECUTIVE VOICE



Peter Davis

sense moves to remove many of the unnecessary complications which beset people trying to save for their retirement.

First, all adults should be allowed to contribute to a pension irrespective of how much they earn or whether they are employed, self-employed or, indeed, unemployed.

Secondly, people should be allowed to pay as much as they wish into their pension and this

money should also be subject to tax relief. If this is too bitter a pill for the Inland Revenue to swallow, then we suggest basing the limit of how much you can pay into your pension, not on a percentage of earnings, but on a simple £6,000 a year limit or a lifetime contribution of £240,000.

Thirdly, the money you pay into your pension should be allowed to come from any source, eg, not just your own income, but, if you're not working, your partner's income.

Fourthly, existing benefit limits should be removed. Currently people in company pension schemes are only allowed to take up to two-thirds of their pay as a pension at retirement. Why? No good reason as far as I can see. Therefore, benefit limits should be removed and people allowed to fund their pension to whatever level they can afford.

What is interesting about these proposals is that if you put them in front of someone not baptised into the priesthood of pensions, they think these freedoms already exist

and they are dismayed to discover that unfortunately life is not as easy as that.

As well as offering a number of simple options, I would also suggest taking a couple of things away.

Pensions have to provide people with an income for perhaps up to 30 years, therefore the idea that you can take up to 25 per cent out of your pension as a tax-free lump sum to spend on a holiday is now an anomaly and we should consider phasing it out.

Freedom of choice is invariably a good thing. However, extending freedom of choice so that people may or may not save for their retirement can have the unfortunate effect of some people choosing to be better off now at the expense of being poor after they finish work. The right to leave an employer's pension scheme and do nothing in its place means anyone doing so will almost certainly be poorer in retirement. It is easy to understand why people do this. Generally, take-home pay goes up as a result of not making pension contributions, but

this is a short-term gain and is not in the individual's ultimate interests. The freedom to allow people to opt out of their employer's pension scheme should be reconsidered.

Saving for your retirement is not a simple affair. Many people get bogged down in the intricacies of regulation and legislation and keep putting the decision off. But this decision cannot be put off indefinitely. Hopefully a simpler, easy-to-understand pension will go some way towards encouraging people to put more money away for their retirement at an earlier stage.

In the early 1960s John F. Kennedy said: "Society has produced a medical revolution which extends human life but has failed to create an accompanying financial revolution which sustains it in dignity." Thirty years on we have the financial mechanisms to help people to support themselves in retirement; the problem is they can't understand them.

□ Peter Davis is group chief executive of Prudential Corporation

## Burton wins Innovations with £45m bid

By CLARE STEWART

BURTON GROUP is to move into home shopping through the acquisition of Innovations, the mail order company.

The agreed offer by Burton, which owns the Debenhams, Top Shop and Dorothy Perkins chains, values each Innovations share at 310p and the company at £44.9 million.

News of the agreed bid, together with encouraging sales figures from Burton, prompted analysts to upgrade profit forecasts, boosting the shares.

Shareholders can choose between shares, cash or a loan note alternative. Shares of Innovations, which was formerly known as Kleeneze, had closed at 212p on Thursday.

Burton also announced that group sales in the 19 weeks to July 13 rose by 8.5 per cent, led by Debenhams where sales increased by 8.8 per cent. Gross margins have also im-

proved, up 2.1 per cent, reflecting "better trading and supply chain improvements."

Burton said its acquisition of Innovations was "a strategic opportunity" to get into the home shopping market. Andrew Higginson, Burton's finance director, said: "It is a natural development of the Burton brands." Burton hopes to have the first catalogues for the individual chains operating within two years.

Holdings of 50.54 per cent of Innovations shares, including the directors, are backing the Burton offer. Nigel Swabey, a former director who left after a boardroom row in 1994, and who holds 15.4 per cent, is also believed to support the offer.

Shares in Burton ended at 151 1/4p, up 6 1/4p, while Innovations closed up 10 1/2p at 313p.

Tempus, page 30

## Lang clears £1.7bn water bid by ScottishPower

By OUR CITY STAFF

IAN LANG, President of the Board of Trade, has cleared ScottishPower's £1.68 billion bid for Southern Water.

The DTI said yesterday that ScottishPower had confirmed its agreement to reductions in the allowable price increases for Southern Water's regulated water business over the period 1997 to 2000. ScottishPower offered cuts of 3 per

cent in permitted price levels in the two years from April 1998.

Mr Lang added that ScottishPower had given assurances that it would address concerns over the loss of comparative information on the performance of water companies resulting from Southern Water's removal from the Stock Exchange.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.05	1.89
Austria Sch	17.22	15.72
Belgium Fr	50.51	46.21
Canada \$	2.215	2.055
Cyprus Cyp£	0.7488	0.6919
Denmark Kr	8.47	8.07
Finland Mk	7.37	6.92
France Fr	6.23	5.78
Germany Dm	2.460	2.250
Greece Dr	380	355
Hong Kong \$	12.99	11.69
Iceland ISK	113	93
Ireland P	1.017	0.937
Israel Sh	5.21	4.66
Italy Lit	2454	2299
Japan Yen	161.80	153.80
Malta	0.582	0.538
Netherlands Gld	2.740	2.510
New Zealand \$	2.38	2.18
Norway Kr	10.45	9.95
Portugal Esc	248.00	229.50
S Africa Rd	6.57	6.27
Spain Ptas	201.50	188.50
Sweden Kr	10.88	10.08
Switzerland Fr	2.017	1.827
Turkey Lira	139816	124816
USA \$	1.541	1.371

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

### THE SUNDAY TIMES

#### INVESTOR INVASION

Directors of United Utilities and Eurotherm have discovered that shareholders are no longer passive. The new breed of aggressive investors are demanding a bigger say in the companies they own...

Business Focus, The Sunday Times tomorrow

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## A WORKING WEEK FOR: TIM STEVENSON

## High-speed life oiling the wheels of Castrol

Jon Ashworth meets the chief executive whose ambition is to spread his company's products to all corners of the globe

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday

WHEN the big names in motorcycle racing scream down the track at Donington Park tomorrow, one fan will not be there to cheer them on. Tim Stevenson will be on his way to Colombia as part of a routine that finds him in China one week, clinching a deal, or in a distant corner of Russia, downing vodkas with hard-nosed locals. His life turns on the fortunes of Castrol, whose lubricants have been breaking records, and snatching chequered flags, for the best part of a century — there is a world to conquer and motor sport must wait.

All eyes at tomorrow's British Motorcycle Grand Prix will be on Luca Cadalora, riding a Honda 500cc emblazoned with the Castrol colours. Castrol spends £100 million a year on brand promotion, with much of the money devoted to sponsoring superbikes, rally cars and powerboats. The company is associated with the Thrust SSC assault on the land speed record, led by Richard Noble, the current holder. Victory runs home the message: Castrol means success.

There's something particularly romantic about going very fast across the earth," says Stevenson, 48, who became chief executive of Castrol International three years ago. "We've always wanted to be associated with that." Founded by C.C. Wakefield in 1899, Castrol has long been involved with record-breaking attempts. During the 1920s, it was said that four out of five British car races were won on Wakefield

There is romance in going very fast across the earth

needed to be in, and of, those developing market places; to live, breathe and feel them on a day-to-day basis."

Hong Kong was chosen in spite of fears about the forthcoming handover to China. "We were prepared to take the risk of 1997. If it really goes bad, and the Red Army starts shooting at everybody, we'll have to pull the team out, but we think the probability is very small."

Castrol is long established in Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia, and is anxious to gain market share in Japan, Korea and China. Stevenson recently clinched a joint venture in Shenzhen, ready to flood the local market with Castrol lubricants. "You can take a view that over a 15-year period we've got to get it right in China, or all the effort that we're putting into Asia will be wasted."

The greatest success so far has been in Vietnam, which has grown in four years to become a vastly important market. "The Vietnam story is the best example that we've got of taking the Castrol formula into a brand-new territory and building the thing from scratch," says Stevenson. Billboards and stickers have sprouted all over Ho Chi Minh City. Local marketers have campaigned to get Castrol stickers on the back of as many motorbikes as possible.

The strategy appears to have worked. Stevenson recalls: "The first time I went there, I was wheeled in by our general manager to see a number of government ministers, one of whom said: 'Ah, yes, Castrol Best Quality Lubricants' — that's the theme on which we've marketed the product. We'd used all the media to drum home the message, and he'd absorbed it. It was lovely to have it played back from that level."

A similar exercise is under way in India, which was recently freed up for greater competition. "We did it in exactly the way we've done it in Vietnam: by blanketing the market with Castrol imagery and driving the business forward. You go to the remotest parts of India, and you see walls that are plastered with the Castrol logo and the Castrol colours."

Stevenson spends an average of ten days a month travelling, although the pace has eased recently. When he became chief executive he set himself the task of visiting all Castrol's subsidiaries within three years. South America is the last big gap — hence his latest trip.

Much of his time is spent talking to Castrol clients and staff, eager to win a feel for the dynamics of the business. Discussions inevitably lead to the local bar. "Castrol executives are great drinkers, and a lot of the flavour of what's really going on in an organisation you get from people late at night in the bar. Now let me tell you this. 'Why the bloody hell don't you do this', and 'You got that one completely wrong, didn't you?'"

Contracts in Russia often depend on the ability to down several glasses of vodka.



Tim Stevenson tops up at Burmah Castrol House, Swindon. "The job that I've got is challenging enough without thinking too much about what happens next."

On the road, Stevenson heeds the advice of Burmah Castrol's chief executive, Jonathan Fry, who did the job before me, said: 'One of the most important things in this job is to make sure you get lots of sleep whenever you can'. He's my boss, now."

When in the UK, Stevenson divides his time between head office in Swindon, a smaller London outpost, and home in Oxford, where he lives with his wife, Marion, and their three daughters. We meet at the Castrol Technology Centre in Pangbourne, Berkshire, awash with white-coated technicians and idling engines. Stevenson is cordial but intensely focused, rarely deviating from the script as the Castrol story unfolds.

Wakefield, the son of a lay preacher, started out with railway lubricants in the early 1900s, and emerged, for a time, as Ford's recommended supplier. His mixture of castor and mineral oil was hailed as Britain's "secret weapon" in the First World War, enabling Handley Page bombers to fly above the range of German guns at dauntingly low temperatures. Consumer success followed.

A lawyer by trade, Stevenson started 20 years ago in Burmah's legal department, then switched to planning, before a stint

running Castrol's operations in Spain. "It was fantastic fun," he says. "I was on my own, in a sense, because of the Castrol tradition, which is when you're in charge of a Castrol company you're left very much to your own devices provided things go all right."

Last year, things did not go all right in Brazil, which suffered losses of £9 million. A new management team has since been drafted in.

When he was approaching 40, Stevenson signed up at London Business School for an accelerated MBA course. He has experienced most sides of a business that

provides lubricants for metalworking, fuels ships and is used to hydraulically control well-heads on the ocean floor. "I've had a fantastic opportunity of seeing different bits of the group, and very different sorts of management issues to handle."

Stevenson continues to pack in the overseas trips, and runs two or three times a week to keep in shape. He has had some hairy moments, once careered down a Turkish hillside in an old black Mercedes after the brakes failed. "Luckily the guy who was driving it was pretty competent, and using the handbrake and the gears and a bit of gravel that happened to appear on the right hand side, he managed to stop."

Stopping will be no less an issue in

Nevada's Black Rock desert in September, when Andy Green, an RAF test pilot, attempts to steer Thrust SSC to a new land speed record. Castrol is one of dozens of sponsors to the project, which will bring its own set of rewards. "If he succeeds in shoving a car across the desert at north of 840 miles per hour, the exploitation opportunities are fantastic."

Stevenson could well be running Burmah Castrol within a couple of years, although he will not be drawn on his ambitions. "The job that I've got is big enough and challenging enough without thinking too much about what happens next. To worry about that too much actually wouldn't be terribly constructive. It would take my eye off the ball, and the ball is coming fast enough as it is."

## HIDDEN ASSETS

## Essence of beauty pervades a chairman's dining room

BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services group, is not normally associated with scent, cosmetics and visions of female beauty. Yet, it has a rather curiously provocative collection of portraits of fragrant young women in its Windsor House office in Victoria Street, London. At first glance, a visitor could be excused for recoiling at the sight of these semi-clad beauties, wondering if they might be portraits of particularly self-indulgent female BAT executives or, more likely, a selection of the most attractive directors' wives.

Hanging in a group in the chairman's dining room and dotted around the offices of senior executives, they are in fact a series of paintings of "the ideal woman", as conceived by leading artists of the 1960s. The series was commissioned in the mid-1960s when BAT owned a number of cosmetics and fragrance houses, including Yardley and Lenthéric, companies which were sold in 1985 as British and American Cosmetics to Becham.

Lenthéric clearly had a flair for publicity, for it dreamt up the idea of commissioning these 12 portraits of female beauty to publicise a new fragrance named Lenthéric 12. In the words of its publicity alchemists of the day: "Lenthéric wanted a perfume that would appeal to women everywhere so they went to 12 of the world's best-known painters and commissioned them to paint their ideal of feminine beauty. These highly individual pictures were hung together in

Portraits of 'the ideal woman' provide a talking point at BAT, says Joanna Pitman

France. And from them, Lenthéric's skilled perfumers drew their inspiration." This came in all forms. Salvador Dali's watercolour depicts a young girl, big of hip and breast, blonde and barely covered, in Venus de Milo pose, pointing dreamily at the artist as a single pink rose clings and clatters up her thighs. Franco Gentilini, an Italian whose work hangs in modern art galleries in Rome, Venice and Milan, produced a large semi-abstract oil

painting of a naked woman clasping a tulip. It hangs by the lifts in the office corridor (clearly the more provocative pictures have been kept out of the chairman's dining room, lest important clients choke on their starters). The Gentilini dame has long been a curiosity, "a bit of a talking point" as BAT employees refer to it, for her peculiar double nipple which looks as if it might have been added by the pencil of a passerby waiting for the lift. Not all are abstract. Some

artists painted their girlfriends, wives or sisters, others shot themselves away and dreamt up their ideal woman. The resulting range of vision, tone and style is broad. Pietro Annigoni, regarded by Lenthéric as "the world's greatest living portrait painter", did a rather subdued but finely executed crayon-and-wash head and shoulders. It hangs in the office of the finance director. One portrait from the original collection of 12 has been sold. This was a huge Peter Blake pop art oil painting of Cryla, the only named portrait in the collection and a fine example of his brash and brightly coloured work. All in all, the remaining Lenthéric 12 are a pretty idiosyncratic group which by no means appeals to all tastes.

Suzanne Fisher, of the public affairs department, is in favour. "Once you recognise they're a collection, they become quite a curiosity. I think they are quite fun, although many regard them as rather sexist."

Lord Cairns, the new chairman of BAT Industries and a man of classical artistic tastes, is said to be ambivalent about them.

The present finance director, who stares daily at the Annigoni beauty hanging on his wall, may in fact turn out to have been their champion all along, preventing them from going under the hammer at Christie's.

On the other hand, he may be aware that they are worth only £75,000 and are better preserved for their lunchtime conversation value.



Dali painted one of the Lenthéric 12 portraits

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## Parcels firm lifts profits

Nightfreight, the nationwide parcels delivery company that is likely to benefit from the Post Office strike, yesterday reported a rise in profits to £1.81 million before tax, from £1.37 million, in the half-year to the end of May.

Earnings improved to 2.61p a share from 2p and the interim dividend is lifted to 1.3p from 1.13p. Turnover rose to £38.3 million from £25.4 million.

## Sun Life move

Sun Life, which came to the stock market last month, announced yesterday that Simon McClean, the managing director of its asset management arm, is to step down because of ill-health. He will be replaced by Paul Whitney, who has been appointed chief executive from August 20.

## Greycoat buys

Shares in Greycoat, the property group, gained 6½p yesterday as the company spent £5 million buying up stock in the market. HSBC James Capel, the stock broker, acquired 3.57 million shares at 140p, amounting to just under 3 per cent of the issued share capital. Greycoat said yesterday that it had authority from shareholders to buy up to 5 per cent of the existing ordinary shares.

## Panasonic jobs

A £7.6 million expansion by Panasonic, the Japanese company, will create 300 new jobs in Cardiff. The company is extending its microwave oven output, and is planning to develop a new line of digital televisions.

## Equitas

Colin Maltby has been appointed chief investment officer of Equitas, not chief executive officer as reported yesterday.



Salperton, the village in the Cotswolds bought by Barry Houghton last November, after his company had been floated

## US group offers £80m to take over Rainford

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BARRY HOUGHTON, chairman and founder of the Rainford group, is set to make a second fortune when he receives nearly £13 million in cash from an £80 million takeover launched yesterday by Reltec, the private US group.

Mr Houghton's family trust took about £8 million in cash in April last year when Rainford, which makes telecommunications components, was floated for £64 million. He maintained a 47 per cent stake in the company.

In November, Mr Houghton, 48, bought Salperton, a Cotswold village complete with manor house, 1,650 acres, a Norman church and a working farm.

Mr Houghton founded the company in 1971, after leaving Alcan and selling his Oxfordshire home. He moved to St Helens, where he had grown up, and used the £1,500 profit

from the house sale to set up Rainford.

As a listed company, Rainford, which manufactures base station cabinet enclosures for mobile phone networks, has had mixed fortunes. After buoyant trading in the first six months, a slowdown in growth and a



Houghton: second fortune

rescheduling of orders punished its share price.

Mr Houghton said yesterday that he thought the share markdown earlier this year was an overreaction, but otherwise he had enjoyed his brief experience at the helm of a listed company. Rainford revealed that its pre-tax profit rose 15 per cent, to £6.1 million, on sales of £79 million.

Reltec's offer consists of 335p a share in cash, the same as Rainford's closing price yesterday after a jump of 20p. Shareholders will also receive a second interim dividend of 5p declared today. There is also a loan note alternative and a share alternative of 0.411 new Reltec shares for each Rainford share.

Reltec purchased 1.1 million shares yesterday, equal to a 4.6 per cent stake in Rainford. This ensures that, with Mr Houghton's 47 per cent irrevocably committed, the deal will

go through. While Mr Houghton is taking £13 million in cash, he will invest the rest of the £35 million he will make from the takeover in Reltec shares. He is to join its board and will run all its wireless activities, except those in North America.

Reltec is backed by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the leveraged buyout specialist. It has bought Rainford to help it to develop in "an increasingly global market". The company makes a wide range of telecommunications components and has a service division.

It has sales offices in America, Canada, Mexico, Hong Kong, Singapore, Costa Rica and the UK, with a workforce of about 3,000. Together, the two groups will have an annual turnover of more than £410 million and a "reduced dependence on specific markets and greater access to resources", Reltec said.

## Son takes centre stage after major reshuffle at Sun International

Jon Ashworth on the management changes that see a change of role for Sol Kerzner



Butch Kerzner: day-to-day control of hotels company

Sol Kerzner, the South African-born leisure tycoon, has given up day-to-day running of Sun International Hotels, the international gaming resort company. His son, Butch, 32, becomes president of the company, under a wide-ranging corporate reshuffle.

Mr Kerzner, 60, remains chairman and chief executive officer of Sun International Hotels, whose interests range from hotels in Mauritius to the Atlantis resort and casino on Paradise Island in the Bahamas. He hopes to devote more time to strategic issues, including planning a \$350 million extension to Atlantis. His latest project, the new \$300 million Mohegan Sun resort in Connecticut, is due to open in October.

Butch Kerzner takes on responsibility for financial, administrative and corporate functions. A former banker with Lazard Frères in New York, he will work alongside two other senior Sun executives: Kevin DeSanctis, head of North American and Caribbean operations, and Peter Venison, who is responsible for Europe and the Indian Ocean.

Sun International Hotels has expanded steadily since Sol Kerzner left South Africa for the UK in the 1980s. The company has interests in five hotels on Mauritius, including Le Saint Geran and Le Touessrok, has a resort in the Comoros islands, north of Madagascar, and owns four casinos in France. Lately, the focus has switched to America and the Caribbean, where the redevelopment of Paradise Island has proved a

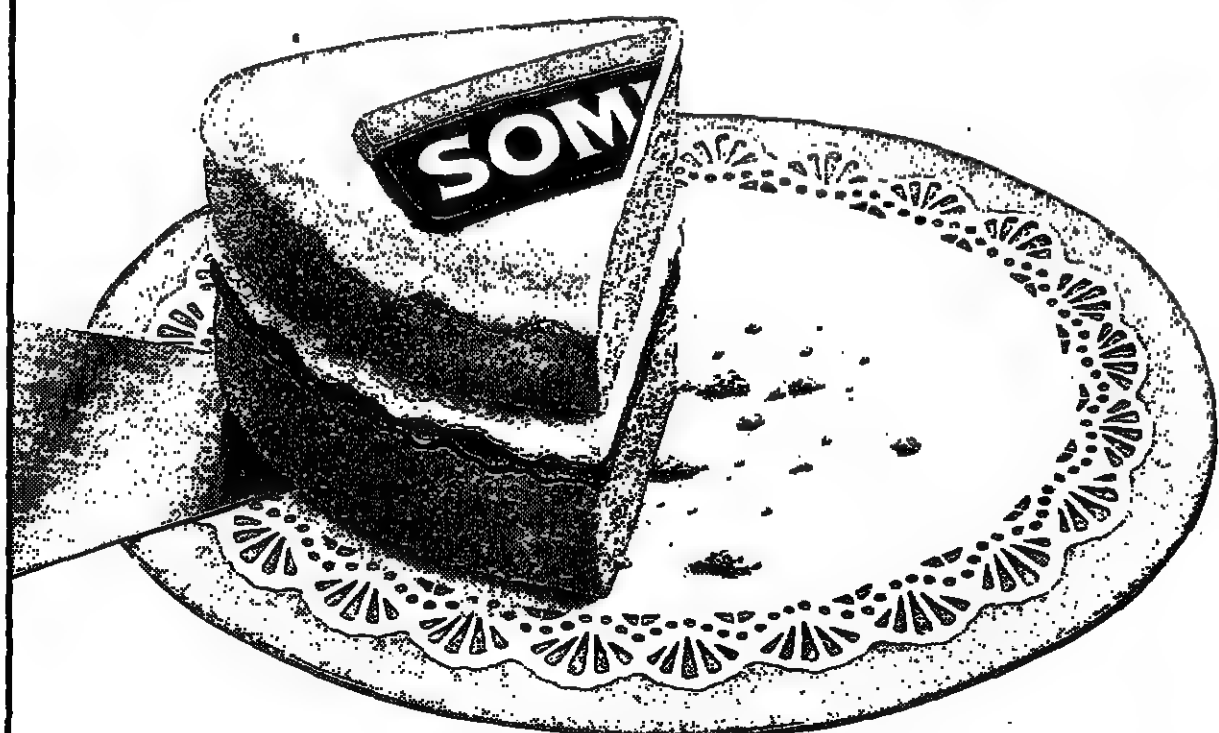
stimulus to foreign investment in the Bahamas. Newcomers include Walt Disney, which had been seeking an island destination for cruise ship passengers. Cruises will complement its Florida theme-park operations.

The son of Russian immigrants, Mr Kerzner built South Africa's first five-star hotel, the Beverly Hills at Umhlanga Rocks, near Durban, in 1964, and went on to transform the country's leisure industry. He opened a string of casinos in the nominal black homelands, and pioneered Sun City in the bushveld to the west of Johannesburg. An extension, The Lost City, opened in 1992. Mr Kerzner has been dog-

ged by allegations that he paid a £500,000 bribe to secure casino rights in the former Transkei homeland. Some ascribe this to the difficulties of doing business in parts of Africa.

Sun International Hotels was formed in May 1994 as a vehicle for Mr Kerzner's expansion outside South Africa. Backers include Caledonia Investments, associated with the Cayzer shipping family. Sun International Hotels is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, and reported net revenues of \$215 million last year. The company's market value has grown from \$150 million to \$1.5 billion in the space of two years.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 20 1996

# SE clique is blocking reforms, say MPs

By Robert Miller

THE London Stock Exchange has allowed itself to be dominated by a clique of members pushing their own short-term interests and blocking reforms, a House of Commons report concluded yesterday.

However, members of the Commons Treasury Select Committee, in their interim report on the future of the Stock Exchange, expressed the hope that "there is still time for the Exchange to reform itself".

The MPs, headed by Sir Tom Arnold, noted with concern that "a major problem with the London Stock Exchange has been the appearance that the short-term sectional interests of those who work in the market, in particular market-makers, have

sometimes predominated and blocked necessary changes".

The committee also expressed concern that the exchange did not appear to be fighting strongly enough to secure London's position at the centre of the 24-hour global trading cycle. The report said: "Despite threats from continental exchanges, the London Stock Exchange still appears to have great difficulty in taking a strategic view on important issues and following a coherent policy through to fruition. This is particularly apparent with the plan to introduce order-driven trading."

The MPs noted strong support for a move to order-driven trading from sources outside the City, such as BP. The oil company had told the committee: "Overseas investors like to deal in a market that is clean, easily understood, visible and liquid. They will avoid a market that is complicated and secretive. Delayed reporting, hidden markets and the expense perceived of the market-makers' spread, all help to turn business away from the London market."

On the basis of BP's statement, the MPs said: "Such evidence reinforces the view that in order to compete effectively for foreign capital, the exchange will need to abandon the market-maker/client method of doing business in the FT-SE 100 shares in favour of a transparent order book."

The Stock Exchange broadly welcomed the report, but rejected the view expressed by the MPs about London's standing against other European exchanges. The exchange said that trading in London and Irish equities last year totalled £646 billion, its highest ever, while trading of foreign equities reached £791 billion, the world's highest total.

## Excalibur slumps to £5.7m loss

EXCALIBUR GROUP, the manufacturer of precision engineering components and supplier of consumer products, incurred pre-tax losses of £5.7 million in the year to April 30, compared with profits of £2.1 million in the previous year.

Losses included net exceptional charges of £6.3 million against restructuring costs, disposals and writedowns. The operating profits were £852,000 (£1.40 million) and there was a loss of 7.6p a share, compared with earnings of 2.3p. The total dividend is held at 0.75p a share, with a 0.45p final. The company is to be renamed Arabis.



Ian Tegner, left, Crest Packaging chairman, and Rodney Webb, managing director

## Crest on top of volatile year

CREST PACKAGING, the carton manufacturer, weathered volatility in worldwide pulp prices to lift its pre-tax profits 14 per cent, to £3.2 million, in the year to April 30.

The group was hit by soaring raw material prices in its first half, but recovered margins in the second to lift overall operating profit to £3.3 million (£2.8 million). Both its flexible packaging and carton divisions increased market share. A 2.75p final dividend holds the total at 4.125p although earnings rose to 6.2p a share (£3.3p). Crest said its new £3.5 million Cerviti gravure press could lift productivity 30 per cent in its next financial year.

## Manchester to vie for Australian airports

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

MANCHESTER AIRPORT, in consortium with Serco, the UK facilities management group, has emerged as the second British bidder for Australia's airports in a proposed A\$2 billion (£1.02 billion) privatisation.

The consortium, which includes Australia's Macquarie Bank, is understood to be analysing four major airports with a view to making a bid this year. The Australian Government is expected to put the Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth airports up for

sale within a year, with the remaining 19 airports to be sold in batches over the next few years.

Manchester Airport and Serco will be competing with BAA, the British airport operator, which aims to buy Australian airports with Australian fund-manager partners.

Chris Bowman, executive director of Serco Asia Pacific, said: "We are very interested in managing Australian airports. We have already got a base in technical operations in Australia."

## Bank set to end dilemma over LAL

By Marianne Curphey

LOYD'S Abbey Life's relationship with Lloyds TSB faces a radical reshaping as LAL prepares to unveil its interim results next week.

Lloyds TSB owns 62.4 per cent of LAL and has been under pressure to resolve the relationship by buying the minority interest or selling part or all of it.

LAL operates Black Horse Financial Services and Lloyds Bank Insurance Services and sells financial products to Lloyds Bank customers. There is considerable overlap between its products and those of TSB. LAL also has a direct-selling insurer, Abbey Life. David Nisbet, a NatWest analyst, believes there would be considerable scope for cost-cutting if Lloyds TSB bought the minority stake in LAL and restructured the operation.

At Friday's closing price of 529p, Lloyds would have to pay about £1.4 billion for the minority stake in LAL, plus a hefty premium. Some of this cost could be offset by selling the Black Horse estate agency chain, and Bowmaker, the finance house.

Alternatively, Abbey Life, the direct sales operation might be sold. A potential bidder would need to offer a high price to replace the cash profits it is generating. Prudential Corporation has been touted as a possible bidder, although it is believed to be more interested in acquiring a building society.

Either way, change could be good news for LAL shareholders, who have had to live with uncertainty over their stock since the merger last December. Shares in LAL rose in anticipation of its results on Wednesday and amid hopes of an increased dividend and more news on the restructuring talks.

LAL, which is looking to buy a mutual life insurer, is expected to announce a 10 per cent increase in its interim dividend. NatWest Securities has pencilled in a six-month pre-tax profit figure of £215 million, up from £197 million.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Heywood Williams pays £34m for Mila

HEYWOOD WILLIAMS, the aluminium, plastics and glass products group, has bought Mila, a Danish distribution company, for £34.5 million. The acquisition makes Heywood the UK's market leader in the distribution of plastic window fittings, adding to its Window Ware subsidiary. Mila already generates 70 per cent of its sales from the UK, with 10 per cent coming from Ireland and the rest from Scandinavia and the Benelux countries.

Mila's head office is to be moved from Denmark to Daventry, Northamptonshire. In 1995, its sales grew to £41 million, taking profits to £5 million. Its net assets were £13 million. The acquisition, Heywood's largest since 1994, lifts group gearing from 10 per cent to 45 per cent. The group said that this would be reduced by cash generated from existing activities, adding that first-half trading was already ahead.

### Shell eyes Ukraine

SHELL OIL may invest up to \$1 billion in gas pipeline and oil drilling projects in Ukraine, the energy adviser to Leonid Kuchma, the Ukrainian President, said yesterday. Volodymyr Ryzhkov said Ukraine would give preference to Shell's proposal to drill for oil in four areas of Ukraine's Black Sea shelf. The company has already won four drilling licences, he said. "Shell will win the right to drill portions of the Black Sea shelf because other Western companies who have expressed interest are not ready for Ukraine," he added.

### Radio station sold

INDEPENDENT Radio Group (IRG) has acquired Central Scotland Radio (CSR) from Grampian Television for £5.25 million. CSR, established in 1993, operates Scot FM in central Scotland. In the year to February 29 the business lost £981,000 before tax. To fund the acquisition and further developments IRG is raising £8.7 million through a placing of new shares at 115p each. Existing shares rose 1p to 130p yesterday. The company is selling a 20 per cent interest in Q96, which broadcasts in the Scot FM region, for £880,000.

### Chesterton buys WML

CHESTERTON International, the property consultancy, has acquired Workplace Management (WML), the principal business of which is the supply of facilities management services to ICL, for £5.2 million. WML employs about 230 staff at 60 ICL sites throughout the UK, with major centres at Manchester and Bracknell. The company is being sold by 3i, the venture capital group, and the family interests of Ken Smith and David Walker, its two executive directors.

### Readicut acquisition

READICUT INTERNATIONAL, the manufacturer of specialist textile products, is acquiring Alan Farrow Group, a privately owned supplier of materials and services for the wall coverings industry, for £28.8 million in cash and shares. AFC, which is based in Lancashire, earned operating profits of £4.3 million on sales of £44.5 million in the year to September 30. Readicut said that it would finance the cash element of the purchase price from existing resources. The shares were unchanged at 58p.

This notice has been issued in accordance with the requirements of the London Stock Exchange Limited (the "London Stock Exchange") for the purposes of section 154 of the Financial Services Act 1986. It should be read in conjunction with the prospectus dated 11 July 1996 (the "Prospectus") relating to Somerfield plc ("Somerfield"), prepared in accordance with the listing rules of the London Stock Exchange made under section 142 of the Financial Services Act 1986 (the "FSA"), which also contains full details of Somerfield, the Ordinary Shares and the Offer. A more detailed prospectus (the "Mini Prospectus") relating to the Offer has also been published and is available as set out below. Words and expressions defined in the Prospectus have the same meaning when used in this notice unless the context requires otherwise. The Prospectus has been submitted to the Registrar of Companies in London in accordance with section 149 of the FSA. Applications for admission to the Official List of the London Stock Exchange for the Ordinary Shares will be made to the Official List of the London Stock Exchange. It is expected that admission to the Official List will become effective and that dealings in the Ordinary Shares will commence on 2 August 1996.

## SOMERFIELD

### Somerfield plc

(Incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1987 with registered number 1162517)

#### Offer by Kleinwort Benson Limited

of 300,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 10p each at a price expected to be between 180p and 190p per share payable in full on application, of which a minimum of 60,000,000 Ordinary Shares are being made available to the public and listed on the London Stock Exchange, sponsored by Kleinwort Benson Limited. The principal activity of Somerfield plc and its subsidiaries is food retailing. Copies of the Prospectus and the Mini Prospectus may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (excluding Saturdays) until 25 July 1996 from:

Kleinwort Benson Limited  
20 Fenchurch Street  
London EC3P 3DB

Somerfield plc  
Somerfield House  
Whitchurch Lane  
Bristol BS14 0TJ

Lloyds Bank Plc  
Lloyds Bank Registrars  
Anthon House  
71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL

NatWest Securities Limited  
135 Bishopsgate  
London EC2M 3XT

#### GUIDE TO COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

##### 1 Put in Box 1 your full name and address (please use BLOCK CAPITALS).

Applications may not be made by anyone aged under 18 (under 20 in Jersey). A parent or guardian of a minor may, however, apply for the benefit of that minor. To do this, you should write your own name and address in Box 1 and put the initials of the minor in the "A/C Designation" section. If you make an application for a child in this way, you may also apply separately for your own benefit. If you are applying for your own benefit please leave the "A/C Designation" section blank. If you are applying on behalf of a partnership, firm, trust, association or other unincorporated organisation, write your name in Box 1, put the initials of the organisation in the "A/C Designation" section and write the name of the organisation in the first line of the address. If a corporation is applying, the full name of the corporation must be entered as the surname in Box 1.

##### 2 Put in Box 2 (in pounds sterling) the total amount that you wish to invest in Ordinary Shares.

You may only apply to invest for one of the total amounts shown in the table below. Applications to invest any other amount may be rejected. The minimum amount for which you can apply to invest is £1,000.

AMOUNT IN £ STERLING	
£1,000	£6,000
£2,000	£7,000
£3,000	£8,000
£4,000	£9,000
£5,000	£10,000

Applications to invest an amount above £10,000 must be in the following denominations:

Amounts of	In multiples of
£10,000 to £50,000	£5,000
£50,000 to £100,000	£10,000
over £100,000	£25,000

##### 3 Sign and date the Application Form in Box 3.

If an adult is applying for the benefit of someone under the age of 18 (under 20 in Jersey) the adult, rather than the minor, must sign the Application Form. The Application Form may be signed by someone else on your behalf who is duly authorised to do so. In this case, the original of the relevant power of attorney (or a copy certified by a solicitor) must be enclosed. Applications made by corporations, whether on their own behalf or on behalf of other persons, must be signed by a duly authorised official, whose representative capacity must be stated.

If you post your Application Form, you are recommended to use first class post and allow at least two working days for delivery.

Copies of Application Forms are not acceptable. Multiple or suspected multiple applications may be rejected in their entirety.

##### 4 Leave Box 4 blank unless you wish to make a tender election.

In order to make a tender election, you must specify in Box 4 the maximum price per Ordinary Share that you wish to pay. Any maximum price specified in Box 4 must be a multiple of 5p (a "Permitted Price"). If you specify any price which is not a multiple of 5p, then you will be deemed to have specified the Permitted Price which is both nearest to and lower than that price. In the event that you complete Box 4 and the Offer Price is set at a level above the Permitted Price which you have specified (or are deemed to have specified), you will not be allocated any Ordinary Shares. In the event that the Offer Price is set at a level on or below the Permitted Price you have specified (or are deemed to have specified), you will pay the Offer Price for the Ordinary Shares which are allocated to you.

##### 5 Pin a single cheque or banker's draft to your completed Application Form. Your cheque or banker's draft must be payable to "Lloyds Bank Plc - A/C Somerfield Offer" for the amount payable on application as inserted in Box 2 and should be crossed "A/C Payee". No receipt will be issued.

You may pay for the Ordinary Shares by personal cheque drawn on your bank or building society account. Alternatively, you may use a cheque or banker's draft from your bank or building society (or a personal cheque drawn by someone else) but you must write your full name and address on the back. In each case the cheque must be drawn in sterling and bear a UK bank sort code number in the top right hand corner. The cheque should not be post-dated.

Any monies returned will be sent by cheque crossed "A/C Payee" payable to the person named in Box 1.

Under the provisions of the Money Laundering Regulations 1993 you may be required to produce satisfactory evidence of your identity or the identity of any person on whose behalf you are applying. Failure to do so, if required, may result in rejection of your application or a delay in the issue of a share certificate (and/or a return money cheque) to you (or such person) and/or in your (or such person's) ability to obtain the benefits of ownership of the Ordinary Shares.

If you apply for Ordinary Shares worth more than £11,000 using a cheque or banker's draft drawn on an account which is not in your name, please ask the bank or building society on which it is drawn to enter your name and address on the back and add its stamp.

##### 6 You may apply to hold the Ordinary Shares jointly with up to three other persons aged 18 or over (20 or over in Jersey). As joint applicants, they should complete and sign in Box 6. Before signing, they should read carefully the declaration in Box 3.

#### PUBLIC APPLICATION FORM

In applying for Ordinary Shares you will be treated as applying on the basis of the information contained in the Prospectus and on the terms and conditions contained therein. Before making any application you are recommended to consult an independent financial adviser authorised under the FSA.

##### 1 Please use BLOCK CAPITALS

Title	Forenames (in full)
Surname	A/C Designation (if any)
Address	
Postcode	
Daytime telephone number	

##### 2 I/we offer to invest a total amount of: £ PUT THE AMOUNT YOU WISH TO INVEST HERE

I/we make this application for Ordinary Shares in the Retail Offer on and subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Retail Offer set out in the Prospectus relating to Somerfield plc dated 11 July 1996. (We declare that, to my/our knowledge and belief, this is the only application made for my/our benefit (or that of any person on whose behalf I am/we are applying) other than any application being made under the arrangements for Eligible Employees of Somerfield plc.)

Signature Date 1996

SIGN AND DATE HERE

##### 4 I/we elect to tender for Ordinary Shares at a price per Ordinary Share of no greater than P LEAVE THIS BOX BLANK UNLESS YOU WISH TO MAKE THE TENDER ELECTION. SEE 4 OF THE GUIDE.

In the event that you elect to complete Box 4 and the Offer Price is set at a level above the Permitted Price you have specified (or are deemed to have specified) in your tender election, you will not be allocated any Ordinary Shares in the Retail Offer.

##### 5 Attach your cheque or banker's draft here with a pin. It should be for the exact amount in Box 2, payable to "Lloyds Bank Plc - A/C Somerfield Offer" and crossed "A/C Payee". ATTACH ONE CHEQUE OR BANKER'S DRAFT ONLY.

##### 6 JOINT APPLICANTS

The first applicant (as shown in Box 1) should complete the boxes above. Other persons applying to hold Ordinary Shares jointly with the first applicant named in Box 1 should complete and sign the box below.

I/we join in this application and give the declaration set out in Box 3.

##### Please use BLOCK CAPITALS

Title	Forename(s) in full	Surname	Signature

##### Delivery of Application Form

This completed Application Form together with a cheque or banker's draft for the exact amount payable should either be posted or be delivered by hand to Lloyds Bank Plc, Lloyds Bank Registrars, Anthon House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL so as to be received not later than 12 noon on Wednesday, 24 July 1996.

The price range for the Offer (including the Retail Offer) set out in the Prospectus and Mini Prospectus relating to Somerfield plc dated 11 July 1996 is indicative only and the Offer Price may be set outside this range.

Completed Application Forms and payments must be received by Lloyds Bank Plc, Lloyds Bank Registrars, Anthon House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL not later than 12.00 noon on Wednesday, 24 July 1996.

Kleinwort Benson Limited, which is regulated by The Securities and Futures Authority Limited, is acting solely for Somerfield plc and Somerfield Holdings Limited and no-one else in relation to the Offer and will not be responsible to anyone other than Somerfield plc and Somerfield Holdings Limited for providing the protections afforded to customers of Kleinwort Benson Limited or for providing advice in relation to the Offer. The Ordinary Shares of 10 pence each in the capital of Somerfield plc have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or qualified for sale under the laws of any state of the United States of America, or the laws of Canada, Japan or Australia. No persons receiving a copy of this offer notice and Application Form in any territory other than the United Kingdom may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to sell or should be in any event use such Application Form unless, in the relevant territory, such an invitation or offer could lawfully be made to him or her or such Application Form could lawfully be used without contravention of any registration or other legal requirements. It is the responsibility of any person outside the United Kingdom wishing to make an application in the Offer to satisfy himself as to full observance of the laws of any relevant territory in connection therewith, including obtaining any requisite governmental or other consents, observing any other formalities required to be observed in such territory and paying any issue, transfer or other taxes required to be paid in such territory.

20 July 1996



STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Shares regain composure to close above 3,700

THE London stock market ended a volatile week on a steady note with investors taking their lead from those soothing comments on the US economy by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, and an 87-point leap overnight in the Dow Jones average.

However, share prices were unable to hold on to their best levels and by the close had seen their earlier gains halved. This was reflected in the FT-SE 100 index, which managed to consolidate its position above the 3,700 level with a rise of 17.1 points at 3,710.5, having been 33.5 higher earlier in the day. Yesterday's performance enabled the index to reduce its deficit on the week to just 17.8 points.

With Wall Street tumbling another 55 points in early trading ahead of the weekend, both brokers and investors remain worried about short-term prospects.

Many fund managers have liquidated their positions and moved into cash, enabling them to remain flexible during further periods of volatility. It was another day of low turnover, with just 607 million shares changing hands.

Among leading shares, it was the first day of trading for Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance since completion of the £5.4 billion merger between Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance. The shares started life at 365p and ended the session at 370.4p.

Railtrack made its debut as a constituent of the FT-SE 100 index after its privatisation last month. It fought off opposition from the likes of Lucas Industries, up 5p at 221p. Premier Farnell, up 7p at 630p, Compagnie, 7p higher at 573p, Securix, up 1p at 260p, and Hays, unchanged at 445p. Railtrack is expected to benefit from the move, attracting the additional support of the index tracking funds. The price finished 1p higher at 213p.

Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine group, rose 2 1/2p to 227p after announcing plans to shed its loss-making large power generating division. The group is to make total provisions of £248 million relating to the disposal.

British Energy rallied to almost match the price at which the shares were floated earlier this week. They finished 3 1/2p dearer at 99 1/2p as almost 12 million were traded.



Railtrack shares rose 1p on its debut in the FT-SE 100

British Energy was offered to the public in its partly paid form at 100p and became the first privatisation to end the first day at a discount.

Innovations, the mail order group, enjoyed an early market on the back of an agreed £45 million bid from Burton, the high street stores group. By the close it was sporting a rise of 101p at 313p. Burton is

final figure from the group of £135 million, have now topped the figure by £10 million to £145 million.

Greycoat, the property developer, stood out with a rise of 6 1/2p at 199 1/2p after James Capel, the broker, waded into the market-place and picked up 3.5 million shares at 140p for cancellation. Greycoat has shareholder approval to buy

back up to 5 per cent of the issued share capital. By the close 7.28 million shares had changed hands.

Lloyds Chemists rose 6p to 481p after the Government cleared the way for Unilever the pharmaceutical distributor, and Gehe, the German group, to relaunch their bids for the company, subject to certain conditions. Unilever would have to sell six whole units and Gehe has also given undertakings to make

## MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Share	Price	Change
British Energy	99 1/2	+3 1/2
Rolls-Royce	227	+2 1/2
Compagnie	573	+7
Securix	260	+1
Hays	445	0
Railtrack	213	+1
Unilever	481	+6
Gehe	140	0
Unilever	481	+6
Gehe	140	0

disposals. When the bid was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission earlier this year Gehe had an offer of 500p a share on the table, valuing the business at £650 million. This topped a previous offer from Unilever, down 4p at 263p. Lloyds has issued a profits warning.

Southern Water responded with a rise of 26p to £10.54 on the news that Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, will not refer the bid from Scottish Power to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Scottish has agreed to address any regulatory concerns that may arise.

Its offer of £10.50 a share valued Southern at £1.65 billion and topped a similar offer from Southern Electric, 3p dearer at 658p. Scottish Power firm up to 315p.

News of an agreed £80 million bid from the US group Retec lifted Rainford, the electrical equipment group, 20p to 335p. Terms of the all-cash deal value Rainford at 335p a share.

After the terms had been announced Retec moved into the market-place, picking up a total of 1.1 million shares, or almost 5 per cent of the equity. Combined with acceptances of 47.2 per cent already given by Rainford this means it now speaks for 51.8 per cent of the company.

Exceller slipped 1p to 18p after the group plunged into the red with losses of £5.7 million against a surplus last time of £2.1 million.

GILF-EDGED: An unimpressive performance left prices nursing small losses on the day as the bond market limped towards the end of a difficult week.

Much of the session saw London tracking US treasury bonds and German bunds without obtaining any inspiration.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt finished 1/8p lower at £106 1/8 in this trading that saw 20,000 contracts completed.

Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost 1/8p at £98 1/2, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 1/8p easier at £103 1/8.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street dipped in what analysts called consolidation after Thursday's rally. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 27.37 points lower at 5,436.81.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones 5436.81 (-27.37)  
S&P Composite 638.81 (-4.73)

Tokyo:  
Nikkei Average 21476.29 (-90.13)

Hong Kong:  
Hang Seng 10845.30 (+134.00)

Amsterdam:  
EEX Index 534.05 (+4.45)

Sydney:  
ASX 2157.60 (+38.00)

Frankfurt:  
DAX 2530.19 (+13.97)

Singapore:  
SEAC 2202.84 (+11.89)

Brussels:  
General 935.44 (+43.38)

Paris:  
CAC-40 1992.83 (+14.43)

Zurich:  
SIX Gen 773.30 (+7.70)

London:  
FTSE 100 3710.54 (+17.10)

FTSE 250 4250.00 (+24.00)

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## TEMPUS

### Cutting the parson's nose

ROLLS-ROYCE is finally getting rid of the old banger. The aero-engine group paid £304 million for Northern Engineering Industries at a time when Rolls was desperate to acquire a stream of profits that would keep it going during an aerospace downturn. Bits of NEI are making money; the Rolls industrial division made £52 million last year from a range of extraneous businesses, including switchgear for transformers and substations and materials-handling equipment.

However, Parsons, the large steam-driven generators business, and International Computers, the perennial headache that has dogged Rolls, of being a company that is not quite big enough for all the markets it would like to serve, Parsons could not compete with GEC-Alsthom, ABB and Siemens in an oversupplied industry, in which mere equipment makers have little edge when customers want project management on a grand scale.

Rolls is right to shed Parsons, but the total write-off of £248 million will come close to the price originally paid for NEI. More important is the cash drain of £20 million a year, a sum that Rolls could ill afford to fritter away, given the investment demands of aerospace.

Rolls investors have waited long to see the investment in the Trent jet engine pay off. Recent airline contracts have raised hopes, but there is concern that Rolls's margins are not as solid as one might hope. In the circumstances, the £70 million cost of shutting Parsons — the likely outcome — is a blow to those waiting patiently for profits. Less patience from Rolls might have left investors better off.

Equally important is Burton's leap into a new growth market with Innovations.

The attraction of direct selling to customers through catalogues has been amply demonstrated by Next. The latter uses its Directory business effectively to test market new ranges at low cost. With its six high street chains — including Top Shop, Dorothy Perkins, Evans and Principles — Burton has enough

brands to fill catalogues, and around five million names already on its list from its store card programme.

Innovations brings a further five million customers from its catalogues, together with the infrastructure and mail order knowhow that should kick-start Burton into the home shopping market. Burton is not looking particularly cheap at 23 times current-year earnings but this retail recovery is a selective affair and investors need to trim their portfolios of drags. At least one giant of the home shopping sector will be disappointed by Burton's acquisition of Innovations, which is at least one good reason to switch to Burton.

## Burton Group

FASHION retailing is becoming a winner-takes-all game, and fortunately for Burton there are good reasons to back its hand. The sales picture has improved since May, when sales were up 8.7 per cent and gross margins were ahead by 1.8 per cent. Yesterday's trading figures showed an 8.5 per cent sales gain with margins up 2.1 per cent.

NEWS of a premium pay-off for Rainford investors had the effect of a bee sting on the share price of Vero, another manufacturer of cabinets for telecommunications equipment. Vero's share price gained 9p to 220p as the fortunate Rainford shareholders pocketed a 65p gain on their investment of 270p in April last year.

Unfortunately, the story has been less glorious for Vero investors, and there are still doubts that the company will acquire the growth cachet of its cousin. Floated at 220p seven months after Rainford, Vero's share price quickly gained 25 per cent only to fall back sharply below the issue price over worries about growth prospects.

Vero has not slipped up yet, but it is a different animal to Rainford. The latter has a niche products specialist cabinets for mobile phone sub-stations. These are cleverly designed to

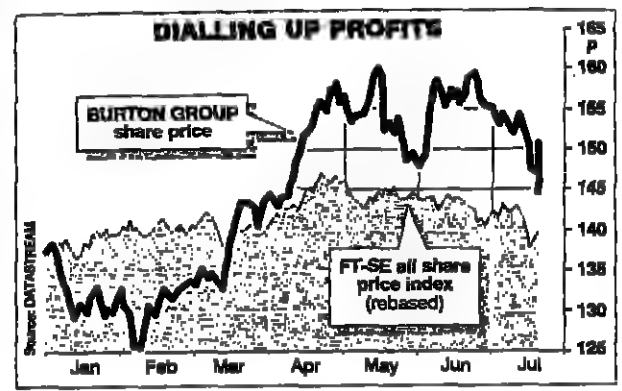
maintain a constant temperature environment, and Rainford's growth was closely linked to its relationship with Nokia, the Finnish mobile phone company.

Vero makes cabinets for older generation analogue switching equipment as well as racks and power supplies for computer network systems. It has a more broadly based and less risky business than Rainford, but its lack of a digital cabinet makes it unable to piggyback on the growth of Ericsson and Nokia. The company is developing a digital product. Should it succeed, it could quickly become a tempting morsel for a larger supplier of wiggles to the telecoms industry. Until then, there is little reason to chase the shares.

Part of the problem is tax: share buybacks are classified as distributions and can therefore be liable to ACT. Greycoat, which boosted its net asset value by 1p after yesterday's buy-in, had the advantage of tax losses to shelter its programme. Nevertheless, some of the larger property companies, such as Slough Estates and Land Securities, might consider such a move.

There is no glory in a big balance sheet if the assets are showing nil growth.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED



## Rainford

NEWS of a premium pay-off for Rainford investors had the effect of a bee sting on the share price of Vero, another manufacturer of cabinets for telecommunications equipment. Vero's share price gained 9p to 220p as the fortunate Rainford shareholders pocketed a 65p gain on their investment of 270p in April last year.

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## Greycoat

THE property sector is blighted with companies desperate to expand their balance sheets at almost any cost, so it is cheering to see a management

## COMMODITIES

### LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

#### COCA

Jul 100-1000 Sep 1002-1002  
Oct 1004-1004 Nov 1006-1006  
Dec 1008-1008 Jan 1010-1010  
Feb 1012-1012 Mar 1014-1014  
Apr 1016-1016 May 1018-1018  
Jun 1020-1020 Volume 275

#### ROBUSTA COFFEE

Jul 157-1573 Mar 1602-1602  
Apr 1604-1604 May 1606-1606  
Jun 1608-1608 Sep 1610-1610  
Oct 1612-1612 Nov 1614-1614  
Dec 1616-1616 Jan 1618-1618  
Feb 1620-1620 Mar 1622-1622  
Apr 1624-1624 May 1626-1626  
Jun 1628-1628 Volume 1424





## EASYWAY 34

Thorton brings in momentum theory to picking shares

# WEEKEND MONEY

## ORPHAN ASSETS 35

The background to the life insurers' big giveaway



Karen Zagor explains why UK shares followed the roller coaster week on Wall Street and forecasts the outlook for British Gas

## Investors hit by special relationship

If ever there was a week that proved that when Wall Street sneezes, London catches cold, it was this week. UK equities dutifully followed Monday's sell-off on Wall Street by reaching uncomfortable lows on Tuesday, and for most of the week the City wavered between reacting directly to news from the US and waiting to see what our American cousins would do.

For investors watching the value of their portfolios fall, the special relationship in the equity market is disquieting. One leading broker noted that private investors were among those selling shares when the FT-SE 100 plunged more than 85 points on Tuesday, before recovering somewhat to end the day 66 points lower.

Yet Wall Street, which had plummeted 161 points the previous day, was moving for its own, domestic reasons. Justin Urquhart Stewart, a director of Barclays stockbrokers, said: "We knew New York was going to correct, and there may be further corrections in the future. But we hadn't gone up as far as New York so we did not need to react so dramatically. If there's a wave on Wall Street, we should have a ripple. There's no reason for us to have a wave as well."

So why does Wall Street have such a strong impact on markets in the United Kingdom? Philip Isherwood, equi-

ties strategist at Kleinwort Benson said: "There is certainly a history of correlation between the United States and British equity markets."

"One reason we've been linked to the United States, through time, is that the US has been the largest stock market, and it is certainly the biggest financial bond market. Also, about half of FT-SE earnings are dollar related. Traditionally, a lot of UK companies, particularly the big, international consumer companies, have done business in the US while others have bought into the US."

Mr Urquhart Stewart agrees. "As far as Britain is concerned, we tend to face America more than Europe. Our European businesses are growing, but we have a bigger presence in the United States."

Companies such as BTR, BAT, Hanson, Unilever and GrandMet have significant American assets. These are big companies with more shares in play than their smaller counterparts, so when their shares move, they have a disproportionate effect on the market indices.

In addition, shares in a number of the large UK companies are traded in the US in ADR (American Depositary Receipt) form, and any massive movement in the ADR price is bound to have an effect

on the share price in Britain. There is also the psychological factor. Sometimes market movements seem completely irrational and have more to do with sentiment than any concrete news.

Mr Urquhart Stewart added: "If one market is weak, out of safety the other markets will react and so will fund managers who are running international books. So there will usually be some linkage between international markets."

But there are reasons why the UK should not be quite so quick to mirror the movements of the US. To start, one of the reasons for the recent US bloodbath was concern about the performance of the technology sector.

The UK does not have a technology sector, as such. In addition, there is growing fear in the US that the money from mutual funds, which has been supporting the stock market, is no longer flowing as vigorously into the market.

Mr Isherwood pointed out: "The flow of funds is different in the UK. Fund managers and institutions have been funneling funds into overseas equities and bonds for some time."

In the US, there is also concern about changing rates. In the UK market we're already discounting an upwards move in base rates. I actually think that UK equities look cheap against cash."



Mrs Merton, star of two British Gas Home Energy commercials, may be sitting pretty, but have British Gas's small shareholders been left out in the cold?

## Should Sid stick with his old flame?

Pity poor Sid, the punter who bought into the British Gas privatisation in 1986. Given the recent, appalling performance of the shares, he might have been better off leaving his money in the building society (Karen Zagor writes).

Anyone who had any doubt about the wisdom of a gas investment will have received cold comfort from Sir Denis Rooke. British Gas former chairman, who this week said the company's two million shareholders had been "conned" because people have moved away from the prospectus a great deal and nothing has ever been done and there has not even been any real explanation."

Analysts blame the tough regulatory regime, which has cut into British Gas profits growth and impaired its dividend ability. It is unclear how investors will benefit from the company's decision to split into two businesses — TransCo and British Gas Energy. For shareholders, the decision to sell now or wait may become easier after next week.

when Ofgas, the industry regulator, is expected to announce its final ruling on pricing, which will shape the company's future performance. But if British Gas does not accept the final offer, the issue could drag out another year.

■ How have the shares fared since 1986? At the launch, they were 135p. At the current 185p anyone who bought would have seen an average growth of 3.4 per cent a year — significantly lower than the FT-SE All Share 9 per cent a year in the same period. The price peaked at 357.50p in January 1994.

■ How high are the dividends? In the early days, there was a generous 4p a share payment. Now, the dividend has been frozen for three years at 8.1p and it may be reduced.

■ Why has life been so tough for British Gas? Investors could not have foreseen the power of

Ofgas. But moves to make gas more competitive have taken a big bite out of profits.

■ What about the demerger? Next year, British Gas will be split. British Gas Energy will carry most of the liabilities. TransCo International, the shipping and production arm, will contain traditional money-spinners. However, until pricing is fixed it is impossible to forecast TransCo's future earnings or dividend power.

■ What does the market expect of British Gas? With the opening up of the domestic gas market, British Gas will continue to face a tough time. Andrew Couch, of Guinness Flight, said: "The shares won't move much outside the 170p-195p range until the pricing issue is resolved." But since the shares now take account of the increased competition to come in the new year, any good news from Ofgas should boost the price.

## Bad timing generates fallout for British Energy flotation

The timing of British Energy's announcement that it intended to shut two generators at two of its eight power stations could not have been worse, (Caroline Merrell writes).

Although the power generator announced on July 4 that it had found a cracked weld at Hinkley Point B, it waited until July 10, after the public offer had closed, to reveal that this would mean the immediate shutdown of identical reactors to check for the same fault. British Energy's profits are highly sensitive to stoppages in supply.

If the 600,000 investors had been armed with this knowledge earlier, some may have chosen not to invest. The



BRITISH ENERGY

shutdown helped British Energy to become the first privatised company to fall to a discount on the offer price since the sale of BP in 1987, falling from 100p to around 94p in the first week, with 163 million of the 700 million shares changing hands in the first day. The price fell in spite of BZW, the Government's broker, stemming the losses. Bro-

kers were angry about the timing of the announcement. But the company said it acted as soon as it was able. It said: "These events occur from time to time and allowances are built in."

Fraser McLaren, Greig Middleton investment analyst, said: "We believe the share at this price is undervalued. We think the true value is about 250p. We are not adjusting our figures yet."

Other analysts believe the closures underline the potential volatility of the share. Philip Epsley, of Albert E Sharpe, said: "The poor start has been bad for confidence. It shows the high risk nature of the company." He said the share would have to fall to 83p

to wipe out the effect of the first year's dividend. He and others believe general choppy market conditions had a big impact on the first day.

Stock market jitters have also been touted as the reason for downbeat assessments of the future performance of Somerfield, the supermarket group, which is being floated. The share price of the company is estimated at about 180p-190p. Analysts believe the group will find it hard to expand in a market which already has huge competition.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

## More commitment please

Little shadow has been cast by the Weinberg report on private share ownership. The independent committee was commissioned by the Stock Exchange in a fit of guilt after it changed the rules to allow all companies to float without offering shares to the public. But neither the exchange, nor the committee, necessarily thought there was much of a problem to be solved.

The report implies that the exchange was a mite precipitate, but that the trebling of share ownership through privatisation is pretty healthy anyway. It will automatically reach a new peak next year when top building societies convert. Efforts are being made to look after existing investors' interests but new post-privatisation, post-welfare generations need to be educated in the virtues of investing in equities.

From between the lines, however, a basic unresolved conflict seeps out. On the one hand, small investors are a jolly good thing. They provide capital for good things. They provide liquidity for the stock market industry, liquidity that is wider understanding, particularly among employees, of the importance of a company's success. On the other hand, they are an economic nuisance. Most of British industry is being run for cash at minimum cost. The last thing it needs is an expensive form of capital in penny packets with maximum hassle.

The actions of the market are speaking louder than the worthy sentiments. The exchange eased listing rules to encourage more companies to join at lower cost. ProShare is battling against the tide to secure full rights for



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

shareholders corralled into nominee holdings. Small investors in British Energy had to accept a "fair" market price set by institutional investors, only to be left with most of a pig in a poke.

As Sir Mark Weinberg and some of his committee are well aware, you can invest in equities just as easily through anonymous, well-marketed trusts. These are clearly economic for the 80 per cent of portfolios under £5,000.

If share ownership aimed to identify people with the aims of industry, it failed. Most own only privatised utilities, the focus of media opprobrium and political attack. Small investors may suspect they are paid lip service only for political reasons. If the shareholder interest numbers ten million, it is harder to attack than a small, wealthy minority. Even if that were so, companies, the Exchange and policymakers need to resolve the conflict if individual shareholding is to flourish post privatisation. Small investors tend to buy new

issues and be net sellers of "second hand" shares. Public offers are advertised. They can be bought without paying commission or stamp duty and without the perceived hassle of using an intermediary. The privatisation programme's success depended on that and provided a guide for the future.

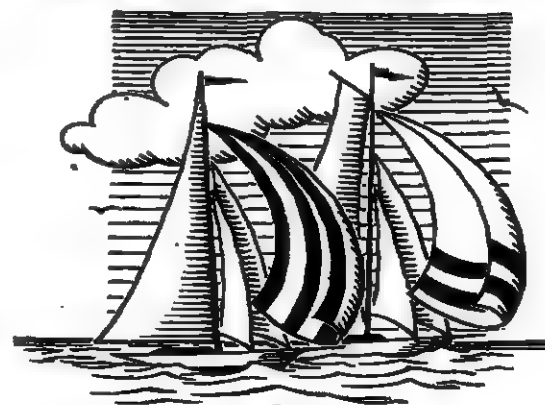
If the traditional public offer is uneconomic, new forms should be developed that are equally cheap and easy for investors. Rights issues dilute private shareholding. The debate over their future is complex. But perhaps firms should be able to make secondary issues via share shops, or market other securities tailored to small investors.

Small holdings, those of £1-3,000 at least, could be made more economic for companies. Government could offer corporation tax incentives to entice more individual holders with full rights onto share registers. It would be better if companies turned their private shareholders into an affinity group — owners rather than mere capital providers — and made their register a profit-earner. More companies could promote single-company Peps. They certainly should not load the cost of small holdings on to retail brokers, who must pass it on.

The Stock Exchange should now set up a separate "local" list of smaller companies and others that genuinely wished to attract small investors. The local market would have rules friendlier to small investors. If not, statute will be needed to restore small shareholders' rights, however costly that might be.

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## **Caroline Merrell says a marriage certificate suddenly becomes very important when a partner dies**

One who has suffered because of what he believes is the discriminatory nature of his

Public-sector schemes are those run for local government, the Civil Service, the National Health Service and teachers. All would have treated Mr Gerber the same way.

Barry Fawcett, head of pensions in the National Union of Teachers, said: "It is a problem over which we are lobbying the Government." The NUT has contributed to the findings of a TUC working party report on the issue of dependants' pensions. The report argues that those who cohabit should have the same rights as those who are married.



ried. The Government has so far been reluctant to grant dependants the same rights.

Mr Fawcett is baffled by its reluctance. He said: "Private-sector schemes have made a lot of progress in this regard. Many have altered the rules of their schemes, which suggests it does not cost all that much."

"The issue of the public-sector scheme is very much in the Government's court," he added. The union expects the Government to respond before the end of the year. Joanne Segars, TUC pensions officer, said: "We have been campaign-

ing on this point for several years. We think the costs of granting this concession have been overestimated by the Government." She added it would take an Act of Parliament to change the rules.

**M**any of the biggest of the private-sector schemes have a far more flexible attitude. For example, British Telecom, with more than 126,000 members in its pension scheme, will treat unmarried and married couples in a fairly similar way. BT said: "If the couple has

been living together for five years or more, we would assume their finances were entwined and they were interdependent. We would pay the equivalent of a widow's pension to the surviving partner, even if the couple were of the same sex. If the couple had been together for less than five years, we would look for clear signs of interdependency, before paying the pension."

British Airways has also recently changed the rules of its pension scheme so that married and non-married couples would be treated the same. In

The rules now say: "An unmarried partner, whether of the same or opposite sex, can qualify for the survivors' pension if they are deemed to be dependent on the employee. Financial interdependence would be an acceptable criterion, eg. where the partner relied on the second income to maintain a standard of living which had depended on joint income."

**T**he Britannia Building Society is busy mailing its 1.6 million members details of its loyalty bonus scheme, which is intended to convince them that they are better off remaining members of a mutual building society than being taken over or converting to a bank.

But members will take some persuading. For one thing, the scheme seems unnecessarily complicated in view of the relatively small amounts of money at stake. You get points for holding Britannia Life life policies, pensions and investments.

savings and mortgages. Each earns a different amount depending on how much you have invested. To work out your bonus, you add your points together and multiply by 20p. Longstanding members of the society earn extra points. If you have managed to get this far, your patience will be rewarded by the discovery that you qualify for a loyalty bonus of a maximum of £300.

You will, however, also discover, as *Weekend Money* reader Thomas Fletcher did, that the scheme is constructed so that borrowers can amass points to earn the £500 maximum more easily than savers, even if the latter have large balances.

Mr Fletcher points out that anyone with monthly mortgage payments of £500 or more will immediately earn 500 points. Under the scheme, one point is awarded for each £1 of monthly mortgage payment due, based on a monthly

average over the year. At current interest rates, you need a mortgage of about £85,000 to have monthly payments of £500. The 500 points awarded will translate into a bonus of £100.

But the structure for savers is different. The maximum balance that will earn bonuses is £20,000. Points are built up at one point per £100 invested.

## Is Britannia more loyal borrowers

loyalty bonus, the account will be closed. Britannia Building Society has tested my loyalty too far."

Mr Fletcher has been with the Britannia for seven years, which would give him half as many points again, making a bonus of £120. But a borrower in the same position would still get £150. Britannia said: "We are trying to calculate the

## Are we interested in its than loyal savers?

**A**n estimated 200,000 National & Provincial Viscard customers will suffer a loss of identity after the merger with Abbey National on August 5. N&P has sent a letter to its Viscard holders informing them that their existing photocards will be withdrawn and replaced with a cheaper version without the added security of either a photograph or embossed signature. This news has angered many N&P customers who had felt reassured that it was doing something positive to combat card fraud.

National & Provincial said many people had chosen its credit card on this basis in the three years since its introduction. In May 1993, Although N&P customers can continue to use their present cards, after renewal they must switch to Abbey's Abbey National has no plans to include photos on them," N&P said.

However, although photo-

cards give customers more peace of mind, research shows that this identification has a minimal impact on the reduction of card fraud. This fell from £165 million in 1992 to £83.3 million last year, but was due to a change in authorisation policy, said Wynne Evans, of Apacs. "Only 1 per cent of cards have photos, so the fall can in no way be attributed to their introduction. And they are not a realistic long-term answer. Either a chip card will be developed or a biometric solution will be found requiring voice or fingerprint identification."

While the battle of the banks and building societies continues, customer reassurance and loyalty must be a top priority. With more than 90 per cent of customers in favour of the introduction of photocard, can the Abbey afford to lose a single one?

**SARA McCONNELL  
AND LIZANNE ROSE**

About 11 million people belong through present or former companies, to occupational pension schemes. However, for the vast majority of those who participate in such company schemes, the exact nature of what their plans offer remains a complete mystery. Their opaque nature is not helped by the fact that the pensions industry likes to use the most complicated jargon it possibly can to describe how the schemes work. Here, *The Times* tries to answer some basic questions about how company schemes work.

**Q** What are the basic types of company pension schemes?

**A** Company pensions are either based on your salary during the final year of employment or are based on the contributions you and your employer put

A final salary scheme is defined by the benefits it provides, up to a maximum of two-thirds of final salary. The amount that is contributed by the employer and the employee to produce the benefits, depends on how the particular scheme is organised.

More than 50 per cent of all company schemes are final-salary schemes, although this percentage is falling because 'some pension scheme managers claim that they will be unable to continue to provide the guaranteed benefits.

A money-purchase scheme, as its name suggests, is where the benefits provided by the pension scheme are linked to the investment performance of the combined contributions made by the employee and the employer. Again, a money-purchase scheme is subject to the Inland Revenue limits of two-thirds of final salary. The amount of pension received will be linked to the level of annuity that can be purchased using the mature pension fund.

**Q** How do company pension schemes relate to the state earnings related pension scheme?

**A** Company pension schemes can be contracted in or contracted out of Serps. A contracted-in scheme means that the employee will get a Serps pension on top of the pension he or she receives from their employer.

The level of pension a person receives from the State is linked to the level of National Insurance contributions the individual has made over their lifetime.

A contracted-out scheme means that the employer will put more money into the pension scheme on the employee's behalf. The employer and the employee

will pay less in National Insurance contributions as a result.

Individual scheme members can opt to contract in or to contract out of Serps on their own behalf, regardless of their particular scheme.

The decision about whether an individual should be contracted in or contracted out, depends on the age of the member because the level of rebate changes with age.

**Q** How can individual members contract out of Serps on their own behalf?

**A** It is possible for individuals to contract out of Serps using a rebate-only personal pension, which is offered by most insurance companies.

**Q** Are there any other issues members should consider in their decision about whether to contract in or to contract out of Serns?

**A** Changes introduced in this year's Pension Act mean that contracted-out money purchase schemes (Comps) may not be so viable.

Sun Life has written to the trustees of 340 company pension schemes, with a total of 20,000 members, to give them warning that it is no longer cost-effective for schemes to be contracted out of the state earnings related pension scheme.

The warning comes in the wake of changes introduced in this year's Pension Act, which mean that from next April, the Serps rebate paid by the Department of Social Security will be much more expensive to collect and will be less than it has been in previous years.

The new rules will affect all contracted-out money purchase schemes and it is likely that other insurance companies will be writing to trustees to alert them to the changes.

Sun Life, which was one of the biggest providers of contracted-out money purchase schemes, has decided to withdraw from the market altogether.

Paul Smith, Sun Life business development manager, said: "From next year, scheme members who need to be contracted out of Serps should do so using a personal pension."

Mr Smith believes that the company schemes would, with the contracting out rebate, have to produce an 11 per cent a year better return, on average, for them to be equivalent to a personal pension.

However, other pension companies do not agree with Sun Life's analysis of the figures and believe that contracted-out money purchase schemes are still viable.

CAROLINE MERRELL

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## Spring clean leaves stains

Before the summer holidays, there has been some spring cleaning at the investor watchdogs. But officials have not been busy enough with their mops and dusters.

It is certainly good news that the Personal Investment Authority, the body responsible for ensuring best behaviour among insurers and advisers, plans to regulate long-term care schemes. To date, this kind of cover which pays out if you need residential care in old age, has been outside the PIA's watchful eye. *Weekend Money* pointed out the considerable risks in allowing such a lucrative market to develop without restriction.

The PIA's action on long-term care may avert a crisis similar to the personal pensions scandal. However, the PIA's progress in resolving the pensions affair, a large stain on the insurance industry's record, still leaves much to be desired.

This week, the Trades Union Congress published *Justice Delayed* which details the continuing delays in compensating those wrongly advised to reject company schemes, with good benefits.



**COMMENT**  
**ANNE ASHWORTH**  
Personal Finance  
Editor

in favour of poor value personal pensions. The examples highlighted include older people who are supposed to be priority cases, but who have yet to receive redress for their losses.

The PIA should immediately stop talking tough and start using its muscle against the culprits. Pressure should also come from those groups, like Barclays Life, that have taken their compensation duties seriously.

One possible sanction against the dilatory could be to deny them licences to sell long term care insurance. For those who were happy to sell inferior pensions, condemning thousands to a penurious retirement and now refusing to make amends are certainly not fit to have further involvement in the welfare of the elderly.

### Sound of silence

THE Halifax Building Society has now explained why its conversion is taking so long. Many of its nine million members, aged for their free shares, have wondered how a wait of 31 months could be warranted.

Their cash has been locked up in the society since November 25, 1994, when merger and conversion plans were revealed. But the stock market flotation will not take place until June, 1997.

In a booklet to be sent to the Halifax faithful this week, Mike Blackburn, Halifax's chief executive, acknowledges the criticism and puts the blame on the problems involved in bringing together the levithian member databases of the Leeds and the Halifax. Cleverly Mr

Blackburn then makes a virtue out of necessity. The Halifax, he explains, is eager to ensure that as many savers as possible benefit from the additional variable share distribution reserved for those with balances of £1,000 plus.

Only savers who have been with the society for at least two years prior to the all important qualifying date can participate in this distribution. The qualifying date now been set at 31 December 1996, allowing thousands more savers than was originally anticipated to benefit.

To its credit, the Halifax is, at least, attempting to keep its savers and borrowers informed.

This is in marked contrast to the Alliance & Leicester which aims to reach the stock market in April 1997, but has said next-to-nothing about its plans.

It is not even known whether the society has in mind a variable distribution for investors with larger balances. The Alliance & Leicester's silence is beginning to look more and more like an attempt simply to retain millions in savers' cash, while leaving them in ignorance.

### Building society savings rates hit 143-year low.

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Sunday Times 14.7.96



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## Taxpayers face £30 a day fines

TAXPAYERS who fail to give the Inland Revenue sufficient detail about their tax affairs could find themselves clocking up fixed penalties of up to £30 a day until they respond to the Revenue's satisfaction.

The Revenue this week published a new code of practice for inquiries, which will come into operation with the new system of self assessment.

The code spells out for the first time how the Revenue will handle its inquiries. From April 1997, if you are among the 4.5 million

people who fill in a tax return, you will be offered the choice of calculating your own tax bill or getting the Revenue to do it. If you take the latter option you will have to provide exact figures by the end of September after the tax year, a month earlier than now.

Revenue offices have been

given new powers to penalise people for incomplete returns, without having first to get the approval of the tax commissioners. Information can be checked on any return up to 12 months after receiving it and answers can be demanded.

Offices can either carry out a full investigation of your affairs, or check out one aspect of your return.

If the taxman wants more information, he will give 30 days. If you fail to respond, you will get a formal written notice and 30 days to supply

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SARA MCCONNELL

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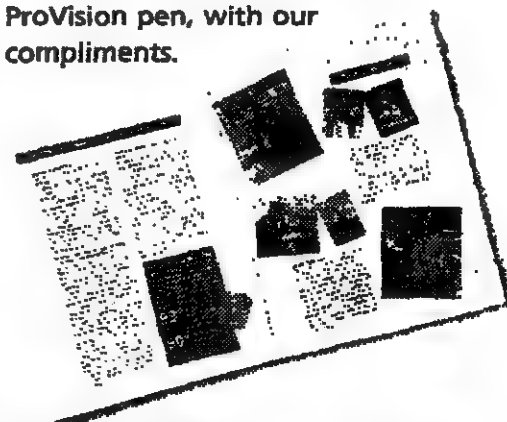
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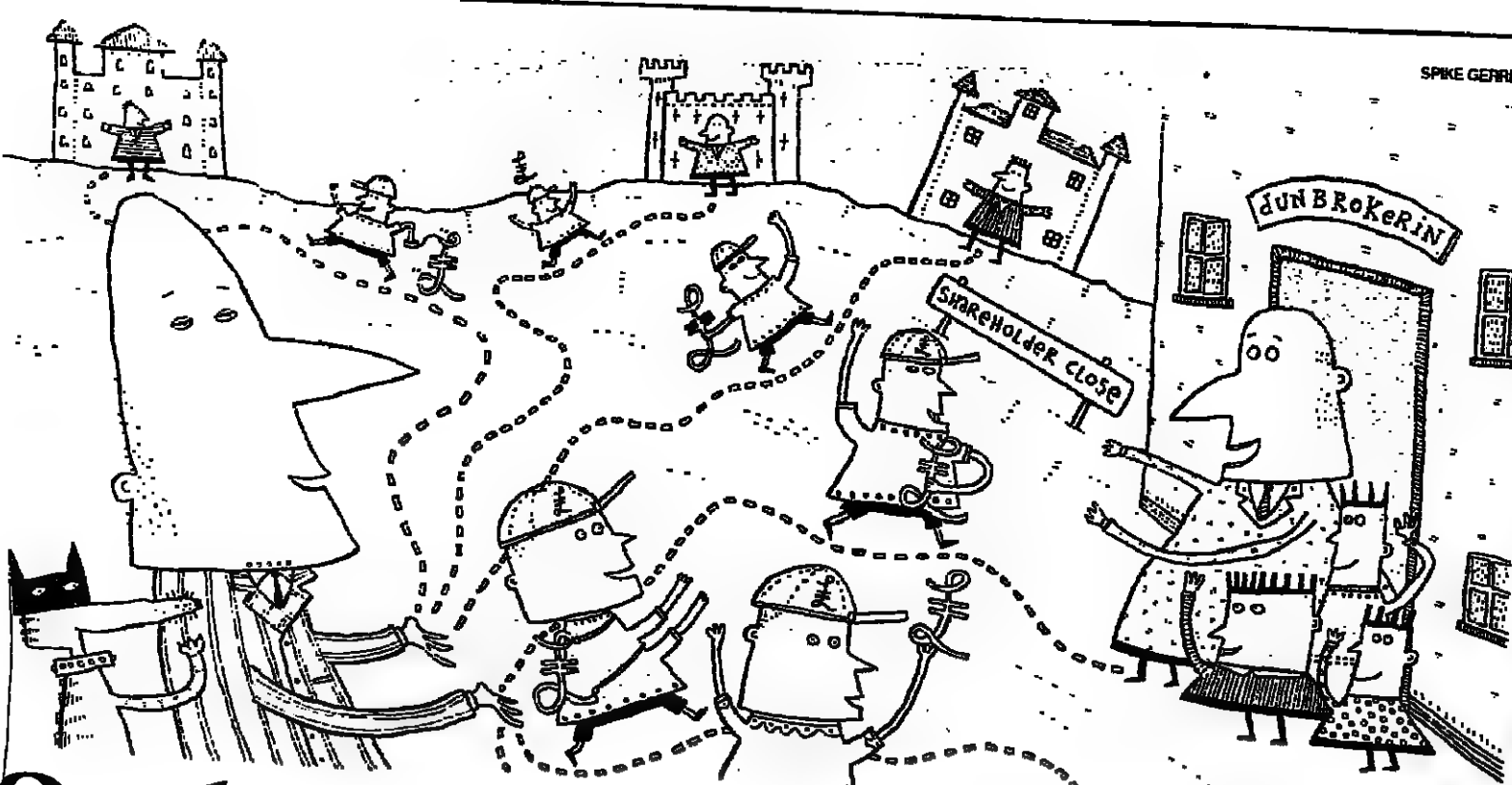
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## Orphans going into new care

Marianne Curphey on the background and benefits of the big life insurers' assets giveaway

The life insurance industry has been buzzing this week with talk of "orphan" assets and big payouts for policyholders and shareholders. The giant insurer Pearl announced it was redistributing almost £1 billion and Refuge is believed to be close to announcing a bumper payout. But what does this mean, and how will it benefit you?

### What are orphan assets?

They are a sum of money in the life fund which is more than that needed to meet the reasonable demand of policyholders. In effect, this means the amount policyholders can expect from their annual bonuses, plus enough to cover more than adequately future payouts if the fund goes through some lean years.

These assets have built up over decades because the past profits from investment have exceeded the actual payouts given to policyholders, often because actuaries have been extremely prudent when setting the levels to be paid out. They have also accrued because the maximum management fee has not always been charged to the life fund. In the early years of a fund shareholders often left their entitlements to allow the fund to grow.

### Why are they so important?

If orphan assets are discovered and redistributed they can provide large special bonuses or dividends for shareholders in the company. Policyholders may also benefit, although this differs from one insurer to another. Often the insurer will pay an extra sum to policyholders as a gesture of goodwill. This happened in the case of Legal & General, which originally omitted with-profits policyholders from its plans to redistribute surplus funds. They eventually shared in a £160 million special payout earlier this year.

### Has anyone else benefited from them so far?

The issue first arose in 1992, when London & Manchester won approval from the Department of Trade and Industry, which regulates insurance companies, to redistribute surplus funds. United Friendly also was allowed to give away £275 million of a £2 billion life fund to shareholders.

### Are any other companies looking at redistribution?

Pearl Assurance, another life company, has announced that shareholders will receive a payout of nearly £1 billion from the surplus in its life fund. With-profits policyholders will share in a £315 million special bonus "as a goodwill gesture". Meanwhile, Refuge is believed to be a matter of months away from announcing that the DTI has approved its plans to redistribute up to £650 million from its life fund. Brianne hopes to have word from the DTI by the end of the year on whether its estimated £1.2 billion surplus can be given away.

### Who else might be on the list?

Royal London and Weselyan, both mutual societies, are also likely to pay out a special bonus from their life funds, according to Secured Endowment Contracts, a company which analyses life funds.

### How does a company go about it?

The company appoints an actuary to investigate whether orphan assets might be available. When their presence has

been established, the insurer contacts the DTI and discussions begin. The DTI and an independent actuary look into the structure of the company carefully and examine records going back many decades. Often the issue takes months to resolve.

### What would it mean to me as a policyholder?

The distribution depends on whether the DTI agrees with the insurance company on who is entitled to which part of the surplus. The company will suggest where the money should go. A policyholder may well get a payout of several hundred pounds, but it is a sum that is added to the terminal bonus of the policy. The policyholder will not be allowed to withdraw it or enjoy it until the policy has matured. During the life of the policy it will grow and build up interest. A payout will not be available if the policy has matured a few days before the announcement, or if it is a general insurance policy or unit trust investment.

Bonuses to Pearl policyholders will vary in size depending

on the type of policy held, but a customer with a 25-year endowment policy started in 1975, with a sum assured of £6,000, for example, will have an extra £246 added to the policy this year.

### And as a shareholder?

Shareholders have enjoyed extremely generous payouts in the past. This is why all the quoted life insurers thought to have orphan assets have been popular with City investors and their share price has been rising steadily. After Pearl's announcement, shares in Britannic, Refuge and United Friendly all rose.

Is it worth buying a policy in the hope of earning a payout? In most cases, the payouts are not large enough to justify committing yourself to a 25-year savings plan in the hope of earning a few hundred pounds in a bonus.

### And the shares?

Most in the City feel that the good news about orphan assets is already factored into the price. This means that traders have bought up the shares in anticipation of a bumper dividend. There may, however, still be some room for the shares to move upwards, but in the stock market, nothing is guaranteed.

## How you rate after the Tessa deadline

Many of those who chose not to reinvest the proceeds from their maturing Tax Exempt Special Savings Accounts straight away will now be up against the six-month deadline for taking out a follow-on Tessa.

The rules governing the maturing savings plans give savers six months to decide where, and if, to reinvest £9,000 of their maturities in to

a new account. Most of the biggest building societies will write to their savers to remind them of the approaching deadline. Those who choose to leave their money languishing in a matured account will earn interest according to the strategy of the particular society. For example, the Halifax, which has the largest number of customers with maturing Tessas, will give its procrastinating savers a rate of 5.65 per

cent. The interest will be taxed, until the savers have made up their mind.

Other societies will tend to put the matured funds on their instant access rate. For example, Nationwide would move the money in to its Cash Builder account, which pays 3.6 per cent for a balance of £13,000. Woolwich customers' maturing funds would be put on to Prime Gold instant access account, which pays

3.15 per cent on balances over £10,000. Abbey National will hold matured Tessa funds in its 90-day account, which pays 4 per cent on £9,000 plus.

Moneyfacts, the savings guide, recommends Tessas from the Northern Rock, Birmingham Midshires and C&G as among the best for those with maturing Tessas looking for a variable rate. Yorkshire, Natwest and Birmingham Midshires offer

among the best fixed rates.

For those choosing to invest in a Tessa for the first time, Principal and Coventry offer among the best variable rates, while Birmingham Midshires and Yorkshire offer among the best fixed rates.

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# So you want to be in the movies?

Do you ache to rub shoulders with the stars? Do you have the pulling power of Tom Cruise or Pamela Anderson? If yes to the first and probably no to the second, do not despair. You too can be a contender — if you have money you can afford to lose. As the British film industry, helped by the success of films such as *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Shallow Grave* enjoys a resurgence, more opportunities for private investment in films are opening.

While films are risky ventures capable of spectacular losses, there is, says Paul Brooks, head of Metrodome, an AIM-listed production company, "More of an appetite for films from both the City and private investors."

A £60,000 investment from a UK investor got the fundraising ball rolling for director Michael Normand when looking to raise \$1 million for *Dirty Laundry*, his new film. Although initially unsuccessful in his attempts to raise money through a UK venture capital group, Mr Normand, who co-wrote the award winning *Leon The Pig Farmer* was able to meet his target after approaching a number of US investors.

For more modest budgets, Scarlet Films of Pinewood hopes to raise £500,000 by the end of this month to fund its production of *The Scarlet Tunic*, the Thomas Hardy story. Star-struck investors are also offered the chance to appear in the film.

To boost the appeal to tax-paying investors, the funds are being raised under the Enterprise Investment Scheme, which offers tax relief on their investments and exemption from capital gains tax.

Minimum investment is £1,000 and says Zygi Kamassa, joint managing director of Scarlet Films: "The maximum an investor could lose under EIS is £480, as £520 of a £1,000 investment is tax-deductible."

Scarlet Films is hoping that its romantic drama set in 19th century England will prove a hit in the wake of costume drama successes such as



Elizabeth Hurley in *Beyond Bedlam*

*Sense and Sensibility*. So far, *The Scarlet Tunic*, whose cast includes Nigel Havers, Amanda Ryan and Anna Massey, has raised £350,000.

A costume drama of a different type is the vehicle of

Cromwell Films in Stratford which is seeking £500,000 for its new production of *Macbeth*. It too is luring investors with a chance to take part and see their names on the screen when the credits roll. "Almost

every application so far is from an investor who wants to be an extra," says Cowlym Davies, general manager.

Cromwell, which produced two previous films, *The Bruce*, and *Chasing the Deer* with private investor backing has opted for a debenture rather than equity structure to fund *Macbeth*, and dropped the minimum investment from £1,000 to £500. Subject to the film's success, the offer to investors is repayment of capital over five years with annual interest of 5 per cent on the outstanding capital balance and a profit share.

If feature films do not appeal, a number of documentary makers are also after your money. Carol Gould Productions is raising money under the EIS to fund a number of films including *Spitfire Girls* about the women pilots in World War II, while scientific filmmaker Peter Parks is raising money for wildlife films.

But if you are looking for a solid return on your investment, forget the movies. Even if the film is a fair success, earnings may arrive gradually as sales to television and video markets feed in later.

One route into the film world that offers a different spread of risk and a quicker route in and out for investors is to buy shares in a quoted film production company such as Winchester Multimedia.

Metrodome, which produced *Leon The Pig Farmer*, has followed a similar path to Winchester, raising money from private investors along the way and setting itself up as a vertically integrated company involved in production through to distribution.

"A single vehicle investment can be very risky for the small investor whereas we offer a spread of films," says Paul Brooks. These include *Solitaire for Two*, *Beyond Bedlam*, where the cast included Liz Hurley, and *Killing Time*, a thriller due for release in the autumn which is set to be Metrodome's most successful project yet having been sold to Colombia Tristar.

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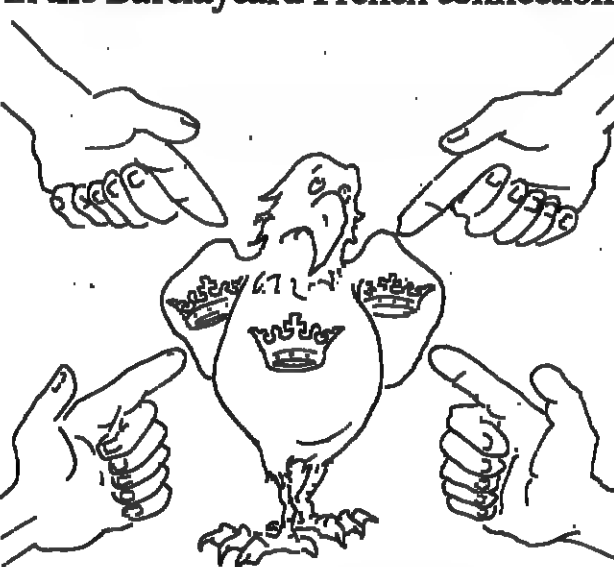
#### Digits don't add up in the Barclaycard French connection

From Dr M.J. Esten  
Sir, I was pleased to see the two common problems concerning Barclaycard/Visa, namely "shortage of digits" and "lack of chip" addressed as separate and distinct issues in the same article (Credit Card? No Franks, Weekend Money, July 6).

I have no problem with the French language, but I have a problem if I attempt to place either mail orders or bookings by telephone using a Barclaycard because it has "too few digits".

I tried to alert Barclaycard to the problem at least six years ago, only to be given the excuse that they were aware that there had indeed been such a problem during the previous few weeks, but this was being solved.

About a year later, I again contacted Barclaycard, reminding them that they still had the same "too few digits problem" and was again given



the identical story. After years of this problem, I now rarely make telephone orders or bookings to France using Barclaycard/Visa.

Yours faithfully,  
DR M.J. ESTEN,  
"Magpies",  
Frithsdon Copse,  
Berkhamsted, Herts.

#### New-style return is not as taxing

From Ms Theresa Middleton  
Sir, Mr Evans's experience (Self-assessment fraught with danger, Weekend Money Letters, July 6) is not typical of those taxpayers who have so far taken part in our live trials of self-assessment.

They have certainly taken a little time to get used to the new tax return but, having done so, generally have found it and its accompanying notes no more difficult to fill in than the current tax return.

And, of course, they do not have to work out their own tax bill if they do not want to. The Inland Revenue will continue to do that for taxpayers who send in their returns by September 30.

Yours faithfully,  
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# Hick's Test match future high on agenda

SOME of the most emotive names in English cricket will arouse debate among the Test selectors this evening as they confront the sensitive assignment of changing a winning team. The futures of Graeme Hick and Phil Tufnell are on the agenda as attention turns to the first of three Tests against Pakistan.

Despite the victory over a limited India team, only six men can be certain of inclusion in the party for Lord's next week. Of these, Dominic Cork is causing concern with his subdued form and Nasser Hussain must pass a fitness test on his damaged finger.

There are more names in obvious contention than for some time, and the make-up of the selection panel, with five highly individual voices, guarantees some diverse views on issues concerning the positions of Alec Stewart and Hick, the identity of the spin bowler,

and the last seam-bowling place. The outcome may not be overtly dramatic, but the probationary implications of a reprieve for Stewart and Hick would be obvious.

Their cases are dissimilar. Stewart was left out at the start of the summer and regained his place only through an injury to Nick Knight. As Knight is now fit again, and Stewart has made a valiant though unconvincing case for retention, it follows that the Warwickshire left-hander, should be restored.

Even this is complicated by alternative cases to be made for Mark Butcher, the left-hander scoring prolifically at the head of the order for Stewart's Surrey, and even for Jason Gallian, Michael Atherton's regular opening partner at Lancashire. Knight, however, has shown a mental aptitude for Test cricket and

## Alan Lee considers who will be selected to face Pakistan at Lord's next Thursday

deserves his chance to show that his technique matches up.

It has been a depressing summer for Hick, but the chances are that he would have kept his place even without his timely runs against Durham yesterday. David Lloyd, the England coach, watched this innings, doubtless with some relief, but Hick can have no illusions as he approaches the series against Pakistan. If he fails against some of the most challenging bowling in the world, he cannot expect to indulge himself against some of the most modest in Zimbabwe and New Zealand this winter.

Such is the strength and scope of the Pakistan attack

that England might wisely revert to playing six specialist batsmen for this initial game. Certainly, they should retain an option by including John Crawley. Like Knight, his Test career has been stalled by injury, but he is batting with encouraging fluency. Mark Ealham did nothing wrong on his debut at Trent Bridge and will naturally remain in the squad, but he cannot be a confident choice at No 6 against Pakistan. Ronnie Irani, left out of the final XI in Nottingham, may this time make way in the party for Crawley before the discussion turns in earnest to two troublesome bowling positions.

Cork and Chris Lewis will continue to share the new ball, for the time being at least, and

best available. The endorsement on his overseas licence can hardly avoid consideration as to whether it makes sense to pick someone for a home Test if they are reluctant to take him on tour.

An off-spinner is less attractive, especially if Hick is considered in this regard, and the solution would be to reintroduce Ian Salisbury. He would doubtless profit from playing in a two-man spin attack, but this seems unlikely and England must draw breath and hope that the recent indications of greater consistency in his bowling are not misleading. Of all the spinners in contention, Tufnell included, none is as likely to bowl out a Test side.

My XII would be: Atherton, Knight, Hussain, Thorpe, Hick, Crawley, Russell, Lewis, Cork, Ealham, Mullally, Gough, Salisbury.

Alan Mullally remains the likely choice in support. Despite his admirable economy rate against India, however, Mullally's inability to bowl the inswinger to the right-hander is being held against him. Simon Brown remains a notable left-arm rival.

The fair course would be to include Mullally but to add Darren Gough, who is playing his most vibrant cricket since those heady days in Australia two winters ago, to the party as an alternative.

It seems certain that a new slow bowler will appear at Trent Bridge, but there will be various theories as to who should replace him. Ian Salisbury, Richard Stemp, Richard Illingworth, Robert Croft and Peter Such will command a mention; so, too, will Tufnell.

If another slow left-arm is required, there can be little argument that Tufnell is the

# Impressive Knight stakes claim for England recall

By SIMON WILDE

EDGBASTON (final day of three): Warwickshire beat the Pakistanis by seven wickets

NICK KNIGHT played his highest first-class innings for two months to guide Warwickshire to a comfortable victory over the Pakistan touring team yesterday and give the England selectors considerable food for thought when they meet this evening to pick the team for the first Test match at Lord's, which starts on Thursday.

Knight's innings earned the county champions a victory which could be the catalyst they need to relaunch their season, but their joy will have been tempered by the announcement of Dermot Reeve's retirement.

Reeve, the inspirational captain during Warwickshire's unprecedented domination of the domestic game, recently underwent surgery on a chronic hip complaint. That has now ruled him out for the rest of the season, one that was always likely to be his last.

Warwickshire moved serenely to their match-winning target of 146 by 2pm thanks mainly to a chanceless, unbeaten 90 off 94 balls by Knight. Although the selectors

may be unconvinced that Knight's damaged right hand is strong enough to withstand the rigours of a five-day Test match against a full Pakistan attack, all that can be said is that he coped capably in scoring 135 runs for once out.

Although Waqar Younis batted briefly in the morning, he did not reappear when the Pakistanis took the field. His absence gave Mohammad Akram and Ata-ur-Rehman their chance to stake claims for the third seamer's position in the Test side. Both generated pace off a lifeless pitch but Knight was quick to punish anything wayward.

The most impressive thing about Knight's performance, though, was the way he dealt with Mushtaq Ahmed, on whom his side's slender hopes of victory rested. He struck him for six runs and one six and appeared to read him with confidence, a claim that few English batsmen can make — and certainly not Knight's first two partners yesterday.

Anurag Singh, rightly hailed as one of the brightest prospects, took two sumptuous fours off successive balls from Mohammad Akram, but against Mushtaq he was all at

sea. His dismissal, leg-before in Mushtaq's fourth over, was a merciful release. Burns, too, struggled before moving once, too often against Aamir Sohail.

Aside from their feeble second-innings batting, the Pakistanis will not be too discouraged by this first defeat of their tour. They were obliged to manage with only three front-line bowlers and some of their batsmen were handicapped by illness. Saeed Anwar went for further blood tests yesterday and he, like Waqar, did not take the field after batting briefly in the morning.

With Saeed caught behind hooking at Altree in the fifth over, and Waqar smartly run out from the covers by Giles in the following over, the Pakistanis added only 11 runs to their overnight score of 147 for eight. Altree finished with five wickets on his second first-class appearance.

Warwickshire will not make a decision on a successor to Reeve until the end of the season, although Tim Munton will fulfil the role until then. The club were able to announce that Allan Donald will resume his duties as their overseas player in 1997.



Mills rocks back to avoid a rising ball from Walsh at Cheltenham yesterday

## Byas puts Yorkshire in the driving seat

By JACK BAILEY

HARROGATE (second day of four): Hampshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 142 runs behind Yorkshire

ST GEORGE'S at its best: the battle moving decidedly in favour of Yorkshire; a first century of the season — and a big one — for David Byas, the Yorkshire captain; another, his second of this campaign, for Anthony McGrath and a first-innings lead of 101: the prospect, if victory is secured, of a place at the top of the championship. All this and Yorkshire's third-highest fourth-wicket partnership of all time. It was enough to make Yorkshiremen everywhere wish they had been here.

In making 272 together, Byas and McGrath failed only to beat the 312 of George Hirst and David Denon, also made against Hampshire, in 1974, and the 299 of Roy Kilner and Percy Holmes. They also batted uncommonly well.

The cares of captaincy have weighed heavily on Byas, successful though his leadership has been. This was only his

third score of more than fifty this season, but you would not have known it, so punishing was his driving.

McGrath, who reached his century with a six, played equally well. He hit two sixes and 20 fours. There was some relief for Hampshire as the second new ball took a toll of batsmen in a hurry, Yorkshire losing their last seven wickets for 34 runs in nine overs.

Much may depend on Rob Smith, who is expected back after being called away to the Indian team today. Hampshire have a long way to go if they are to turn the tables.

They had their successes during the early part of the day. Cloud cover and the still-hard ball enabled Connor to bring one back off the seam to remove Moxon's off ball via his pad. In the next over, Vaughan was caught at slip by Maru, who was substituting for Smith. The wholehearted Stephenson claimed the wicket of Devon in his first spell and, with Yorkshire on 121 for three, honours rested easy. It was the last time they did.

## Hick makes a full set of centuries

GRAEME HICK has had a troubled summer, but he enjoyed a long overdue good day yesterday. The Worcestershire batsman's 88th first-class hundred was notable in that it was claimed against Durham, giving him a full set of championship centuries against the 17 other first-class counties — but more important, perhaps, after his dismal Test series against India, he scored it in front of the England coach, David Lloyd, who was at New Road.

Hick completed his hundred off 161 balls, with two fifties and 15 fours, caught by Ligertwood off Betts, in a total of 302 all out. Durham promptly collapsed in their second innings to 132 for eight and lead by just 70 runs. Another defeat looms.

At Chelmsford, Nottinghamshire, needing 271 to avoid an innings defeat against Essex, were given an encouraging start by Tim Robinson and Paul Folland, who shared an opening partnership of 133 before Robinson fell for 51. Pollard survived to reach the close on 72 from a total of 152 for one.

## Leicestershire flying high

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CHELTHAM (second day of four): Leicestershire (20pts) beat Gloucestershire (4) by 102 runs

THEY celebrated as if they were already champions and, in a sense, they must have felt that way. It may still be July, but Leicestershire now head the county championship after beating Gloucestershire inside two days. This is a rarity in itself, but in such an open year, they have acquired the confidence to believe that it is more than a fleeting pleasure.

This extraordinary game was over before 3pm yesterday, 40 wickets having fallen for 516 runs. It was played throughout by subservient and often self-destructive batsmen, shutting on and off stage like inadequate auditioners before a theatrical director. Almost to a man, they forgot their lines.

The pitch had quickened appreciably since Thursday, but its bounce remained reliable, if steeper than the English norm, and its reputation unblemished. Poor batting conspired with high-quality fast bowling to concoct this premature finish, a huge in-

convenience to Gloucestershire, for whom today was to have been an important day of corporate and gate revenue.

They have only themselves, or at least their players, to blame. Even when faced with making 239 for victory, easily the highest total of the match, Gloucestershire should have come close. Yet they approached the task like a team bereft of confidence, which is precisely what they are. Their two innings lasted a total of five hours, which was a mockery of the conditions.

By contrast, Leicestershire are flying in the clouds. By this time of year, it is generally possible to tell a team's fortunes and aspirations from their demeanour in the field. Gloucestershire, here, were fatalistic; Leicestershire bounced on their toes, applauded noisily and irreverently and greeted each wicket with an odd session of what they would call team bonding.

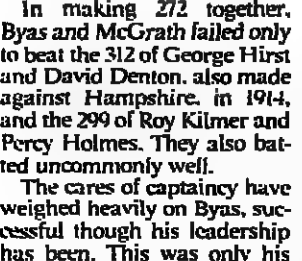
James Whitaker is proving himself a motivational captain and resumed batting at start of play with a plainly advertised purpose. Half-an-hour of forthright attack carried the lead close to 200, before he misshooked Walsh to long leg.

Adrian Pierson was carrying his nightwatchman duties to an extreme and had not scored for 70 minutes, but Alleyne prized him out while taking the last three wickets for 12.

David Mills had shown, with some authentic blows, that batting was far from impossible, but he now proceeded to make it look extremely difficult when he took the new ball. Devon Malcolm apart, there are few cricketing Englishmen howling today, and Mills could yet win a belated first Test cap if some sharp is needed to shake up the Pakistan batting.

Phil Simmons, who had a big influence on this game, despite failing to score a run, broke a resolute second-wicket stand by dismissing Wright and Hancock in successive overs and, when Symonds betrayed his lack of conviction with a tame dismissal, the slide was irreversible.

The defiant aggression of Lynch and Russell was a mere sideshow. Today they must come back for a full-scale game against the second XI to keep the marquee guests amused. Leicestershire can enjoy a day off in unaccustomed territory.



Thorpe imposing

TO BOWL at Graham Thorpe in his present form is to bowl at the most imposing batsman in the country. He made 130 yesterday, his sixth century of the season, and none of the previous five can have been any better. Sussex, who had managed to avert the follow-on with their last-wicket pair together in the morning, were left to make 451 to win on what remains a decent pitch.

Thorpe, who scored 66 in

the first innings, now averages 85.67 this season, which is exceeded only by an Australian in Shane Lee and an Indian in Sourav Ganguly. This is a splendid record and, although the Pakistanis are still to come, he is self-evidently quite capable of sustaining it.

A feature of his batting yesterday was the way in which he picked out different sections of a boundary rope that was never other than well peopled. This is a small ground and more grass has been cropped from the outfield than in past years, but Thorpe still had to time the ball over it. He did so to the extent of striking 14 fours in

an innings that lasted for 190 minutes.

He and Stewart, who was only a little less authoritative, put on 163 after Jarvis had found a good one to bowl. Butcher first ball and then trap Darren Bicknell leg-before. Stewart, who has yet to score a first-class century this season, pulled Salisbury for six and hooked the quicker bowlers in characteristic manner, left leg pivoting well above the ground.

It scarcely mattered that there was a bit of a collapse after Stewart was out for 80, which also included six fours. Of greater concern to Surrey and, indeed, to England, was that Lewis pulled a thigh

muscle in slithering into the crease when taking a sharp single. He continued batting until the declaration came but took the field after Sussex began their second innings and did not have a bowl.

Martin Bicknell soon had Lenham taken in the slips. Although the pitch was taking some turn by the afternoon, his brother, Darren, could not repeat his career-best figures of three for seven that he finished with in the morning. He bowls occasional left-arm spin and clearly Stewart will be hard put to prise the ball away from him for the rest of the season. It will be quite a surprise if Surrey do not win today.

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Middlesex, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 217 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

THE longer John Embury stayed in the witness box at the High Court yesterday, the better his old county liked it. By the time he got back to the ground, five hours into the day and 46 overs into Middlesex's second innings, Paul Weekes and John Carr had swung the match their way with a third-wicket partnership of 120.

Rob Bailey, the Northamptonshire captain, was seething at the prolonged absence of his potential match-winner on a

## YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

### Tetley Challenge Series

#### Warwickshire v Pakistanis

EDGBASTON (first day of three): Warwickshire beat the Pakistanis by seven wickets

PAKISTANS: First innings 257 (Isaied 131, Inzamam-ul-Haq 51)

Second innings

Aamir Sohail c Burns b Altree 52  
Isaied c Burns b Smith 52  
Karl Mubanga c Oakes b Smith 40  
Inzamam-ul-Haq b Giles 40  
Moin Khan c Oakes b Giles 40  
Saad Malik c Burns b Smith 23  
Mushtaq Ahmed b Giles 23  
Saeed Anwar c Burns b Altree 23  
Ata-ur-Rehman c Walsh b Altree 4  
Waqar Younis run out 4  
Mohammad Aslam not out 9  
Extras (b 5, w 1, nb 4) 10  
Total (88 overs) 257

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-57, 2-121, 3-135, 4-136, 5-137, 6-147, 7-155, 8-155, 9-155, 10-155, 11-155, 12-155, 13-155, 14-155, 15-155, 16-155, 17-155, 18-155, 19-155, 20-155, 21-155, 22-155, 23-155, 24-155, 25-155, 26-155, 27-155, 28-155, 29-155, 30-155, 31-155, 32-155, 33-155, 34-155, 35-155, 36-155, 37-155, 38-155, 39-155, 40-155, 41-155, 42-155, 43-155, 44-155, 45-155, 46-155, 47-155, 48-155, 49-155, 50-155, 51-155, 52-155, 53-155, 54-155, 55-155, 56-155, 57-155, 58-155, 59-155, 60-155, 61-155, 62-155, 63-155, 64-155, 65-155, 66-155, 67-155, 68-155, 69-155, 70-155, 71-155, 72-155, 73-155, 74-155, 75-155, 76-155, 77-155, 78-155, 79-155, 80-155, 81-155, 82-155, 83-155, 84-155, 85-155, 86-155, 87-155, 88-155, 89-155, 90-155, 91-155, 92-155, 93-155, 94-155, 95-155, 96-155, 97-155, 98-155, 99-155, 100-155, 101-155, 102-155, 103-155, 104-155, 105-155, 106-155, 107-155, 108-155, 109-155, 110-155, 111-155, 112-155, 113-155, 114-155, 115-155, 116-155, 117-155, 118-155, 119-155, 120-155, 121-155, 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GOLF: SECOND SUCCESSIVE ROUND OF 68 KEEPS OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP FAVOURITE IN STRONG POSITION TO MOUNT CHALLENGE

# Faldo relishes new role as people's choice

BY MEL WEBB

SEVE, the people's champion? Try another name for size — Nick Faldo. Faldo has not quite conquered the golf course at Lytham this week, although he is working on it. But it is beyond doubt that he has won over the folk behind the ropes. He has never been more popular on this side of the Atlantic — and he is patiently enjoying every second of it.

Faldo has long been recognised as the dedicated professional, the master grinder, the constant seeker of perfection. For most of his professional life, he has also been an infuriating mixture of openness, suspicion, charm, gracelessness and 1,001 other contradictions.

Those who know him well talk of his constancy as a friend, of a wicked sense of humour at the dinner table, and yet the public perception of him has remained guarded in the extreme. An easy man to respect, perhaps, but at once one who is difficult to like very much. Well, something has happened, and the result is a new-found and mutually enjoyed affection beyond player and spectators. Even he admitted, after his second 68 of the championship

yesterday, that he had been moved by the way people were giving him the ticker-tape treatment.

"They have given me a wonderful reception," he said. "They were egging me on all the way round, and in trying to do something for them I was getting aggressively frustrated out there at times. I am enjoying it very much — they have created a great atmosphere and that is what we want. It makes the adrenalin flow, and it is great to try to do it for them. When there are 20,000 cheering for you, it's quite moving. It is impossible to keep totally calm, but that's



## THE OPEN

Lytham has been at its most defenceless this week; again there was barely a whisper of wind to disturb the buckthorn trees for the duration of Faldo's round. On a calm day, even the greatest of links courses are vulnerable to attack. At last Faldo did, from the moment he strode purposefully up the first fairway with that characteristic, slightly stiff-legged walk of his, looking not a little unlike a younger Harrison Ford. On this day, however, Lytham was no Temple of Doom for Faldo's Indiana Jones.

His first birdie came on the 4th, where he hit a marvellous second shot in to seven feet and made the putt. Two holes later he rescued an unusually wayward tee shot with the second and third strokes of a maestro. A birdie was the result — to many, a bogey or worse might have been the punishment.

The 10th was brought to its knees with a 20-foot putt after another fine mid-wedge shot and his only failure came on the short 12th where he three-putted. His final punishing act in a clinical display of aggressive golf came on the 16th, where he holed from 25 feet.

Faldo is obviously in good heart — "I am judging the bounce well on the course, and giving myself lots of chances; that is the key for the weekend," he said — and he will take some stopping in the last two rounds. He is committed to attack — his people on the other side of the thin yellow line that divides them will not settle for less.

One player who will not be at White Hart Lane to welcome Faldo, who is expected to arrive, is Erik Thorstved, who was due to link up with Wolverhampton Wanderers today at their training camp in Salzburg. The 33-year-old Norwegian international goalkeeper is expected to finalise his free transfer as the first division club prepares for a tour of Austria and Germany.

Bogdan Stelcea, who played for Romania in the European championship, is another in-demand international goalkeeper. Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, is hoping to give Stelcea, who is out of contract at Steaua Bucharest, a permanent home at Roker Park after he impressed during a loan spell.

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Dan McCauley, the chairman of Plymouth Argyle, is selling the club. He is, he said, weary of the criticism he has endured.



Faldo, who has won the backing of the crowd at Royal Lytham this week, lines up a putt on the 17th yesterday

## Player proves short on finesse

Patricia Davies sees three of golf's little big men experience contrasting fortunes

I was a vertically challenged three-ball with a ready-made theme song. Ian Woosnam, Gary Player and Corey Pavia, who would just about make one Nick Faldo between them if inches were the yardstick, are not tall by any stretch of a definition. They were undoubtedly just the size of person Randy Newman, the towering American songwriter, had in mind when he wrote *Short People*, a funny if disparaging ditty about those members of the population who failed to sprout.

After the tiny trio's outing at Royal Lytham yesterday, Pavia, an insubstantial-looking 5ft 9in, reckoned the book-makers would give long odds against him ever being the tallest man in a group.

Yet with 11 major championships between them, they stand tall. Player, at 60 an increasingly stooped 5ft 7in (as a youngster he did exercises in an effort to extend himself), has nine of them, including three Open titles, the last of which he won here in 1974.

An opening 71, level par, led to hopes that the faded black knight of the fairways (dressed in Air Force blue yesterday) might make the cut for the second successive year, but, after going out in 34, one

plause but only one, from a pot at the 8th green, led to a par.

All the way round, Player fretted about the crowd, the marshals, the scorers, the big Swede who raked the bunkers, the odd journalist scribbling, the television soundman, the radio people — nothing was to his satisfaction. Newman's line about "little voices going peep, peep, peep" came to mind.

"He's got peripheral vision," the referee, who sported a smart pair of New Zealand Golf Association cuff links, explained sympathetically. "He's so rude," was a less kindly opinion. "What a prima donna." The other two just got on with it.

Perhaps it was a small man's Napoleonic tendency — a penchant to be in control. Or

They stand tall with 11 majors among them

Player could just have been out-of-sorts. "I've been playing badly for three weeks," he said. "I can't put my finger on it. It's a little bit of paralysis by analysis." And with that, he headed off to the practice ground.

Woosnam, the shortest of them all at 5ft 4in but the most powerful, just went home. The little Welsh dragon (a fan's description) with the Hippo bag, Maxfli DP 30 Australian blade irons, wayward driver and balky putter needed the breaks after his back-along eight at the 17th on Thursday and he did not get them. He matched Player's 147 with a hard-fought 72 and it was left to Pavia, the US Open winner last year, to boost the shorty challenge with a 66 that featured seven birdies.

"It's just as well he can putt," someone said unkindly, but Pavia, with all his mannerisms, kept out of trouble, a half order around here. Of course, he also had the ultimate in height advantage: his caddy, Eric Schwarz, is 6ft 5in.

Sergio Garcia, 16, the European amateur champion, saw his tournament come to an end when he had a 73 for a 36-hole total of 149. But Garcia will still take fond memories of his first Open Championship away with him. On Thursday evening, he was all smiles as he posed for a photograph with his family and friends on the steps of the Royal Lytham clubhouse.

## Lost touch cuts Scot down to size

BY MEL WEBB

IF COLIN Montgomerie had won the Open Championship this week and Greg Norman failed to finish either second or third, Montgomerie would have gone to the top of the Sony world rankings. As it transpired, making the cut was not even on the agenda for Montgomerie, let alone winning.

Montgomerie, European No 1 for the past three years, had a 74 to add to his first-round 73 and his total of 147, five over par, saw him four shots over the cut mark.

"It just happens," he said disconsolately. "I tend to leave my worst rounds of the golf year to the third week in July. But I must not worry. It has not hurt me before and it won't hurt me this time."

Montgomerie said the longest putt he had holed in two days was one of 3½ feet at the 6th on Thursday. Was it my main problem? he said. "What do you think?"

It was with a sort of sad predictability that Severiano Ballesteros made an early departure — his total of 152, ten over par, was 14 shots worse than when he won the title the last time the championship came to Lytham in 1988.

The reaction of the spectators was the only positive thing about this week," he said. "They were very special, on every hole, every tee, every green. I tried my best, but it just did not happen. Everything went wrong."

"I played well for the first six holes but then nothing went right. But I must be patient, keep working on my game and one day it will come back. It is disappointing to miss the cut in the Open, but when it happens at Lytham it hurts that bit more."

Among other notables to wend their way dejectedly from the Fyde last night were Ian Woosnam, Gary Player, winner at Lytham in 1974, and Sam Torrance. The damage was done to Woosnam's chances when he had a double-bogey six and a quadruple-bogey eight in his 75 in the first round. Player finished on the same mark of five over par and Torrance dropped four shots in three holes from the 13th yesterday.

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## EARLY SECOND-ROUND SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

134: P. McQuerry 69, 69, T. Lehman (US) 67, 67  
135: J. Nicklaus (US) 69, 66, P. Hedblom (Swe) 70, 65; E. Elia (SA) 68, 67  
136: V. Singh (FI) 69, 67; C. Pavin (US) 70, 68; N. Faldo 68, 68; M. McCumber (US) 67, 69; P. Harrington 68, 68; M. O'Meara (US) 67, 69; L. Roberts (US) 67, 69  
137: M. Brooks (US) 67, 70, F. Couples (US) 67, 70  
138: S. Manayama (Japan) 69, 70, D. Clarke 70, 68; C. Mason (US) 70, 68; G. Gilford 71, 67; M. James 70, 68; H. Tanaka (Japan) 67, 71  
139: J. Furyk (US) 68, 71; P. Mitchell 71, 68; R. Mediate (US) 69, 70; S. Hughes (Aus) 70, 69; J. Maggert (US) 69, 70; G. Norman (Aus) 71, 68  
140: S. Simpson (US) 71, 69; M. Calcutt (Swe) 72, 68; M. McNulty (Zim) 69, 71; A. Calka (Ger) 73, 67; A. Lyle 71, 69; S. Faxon (US) 67, 73  
141: E. Romero (Arg) 70, 71; C. Rocca (It) 71, 70; T. Woods (US) 75, 66; S. Cernach (US) 73, 68; N. Price (Zim) 69, 73; T. Hamilton (US) 71, 70; J. Pernarvik (Swe) 72, 69; G. Turner (NZ) 72, 68; S. Stricker (US) 71, 70  
142: R. Bowal 72, 70; M. Jonson (Swe) 69, 73; F. Nodelo (NZ) 70, 72; C. Stadler (US) 71, 71; C. Sorenson (Sp) 73, 69; D. Russell 70, 72; R. Allenby (Aus) 74, 68; S. Miyler (US) 70, 72; P. Jacobson (US) 72, 70; D. Frost (SA) 70, 72; J. Haas (US) 70, 72  
143: D. Duval (US) 76, 67; S. Ogilvie (Aus) 70, 73; S. Barnes 73, 70; J. Lyle (US) 70, 73; S. Ames (Tm) 71, 71; C. Stringo (US) 71, 72; R. Gosses (SA) 72, 71; R. Todd (Can) 74, 69; G. Law 74, 68; D. Horsfall (Sp) 75, 68; V. Enksson (Swe) 68, 75; A. Langenastan (Bel) 72, 71; P. Stewart (US) 70, 73; R. Charles (NZ) 73, 70; R. Charles (NZ) 73, 70

71, 72, T. Kise (US) 77, 68, D. A. Weir (US) 71, 72, H. Clark 72, 71, J. Payne 72, 71  
144: S. Luthi (Sp) 72, 72; S. Lane 71, 72; M. Fory (FI) 70, 74; S. Walton 72, 72; S. Grapasonni (It) 71, 73; R. Wilson 72, 72; D. Faherty 77, 67; S. Tonnare 72, 72; S. Eisele (US) 73, 71  
145: W. Austin (US) 72, 73; S. Elkington (Aus) 75, 70; C. Pary (Aus) 74, 71; J. Cochrane (Arg) 72, 73; J. Pavia (Sp) 74, 71; P. Zoller (US) 70, 75; L. Westwood 71, 74; P. O'Malley (Aus) 73, 72  
146: M. Waldron 73, 73; A. Collari 72, 74; M. MacFarlane 71, 73; R. MacFarlane 73, 73; S. Jones (US) 73, 73; Y. Kaneko (Japan) 73, 73; P. Senior (Aus) 74, 72; P. Eides 73, 73  
147: T. Price (Aus) 77, 70; J. Leonard (US) 70, 68; S. Higashi (Japan) 75, 72; P. J. Johnson (Swe) 70, 77; G. Brand 72, 72; G. Pinner (SA) 71, 76; J. Woosnam 75, 72; S. Tinning (Den) 72, 75; C. Montgomerie 73, 73; S. Eisele (US) 73, 71  
148: S. Botomley 78, 72; M. Florio (It) 71, 77; D. J. Russell 77, 71; W. Westra (SA) 78, 70  
149: S. Cagle 74, 76; T. Hannon (US) 74, 75; R. Johnson 76, 74; S. Garcia (Sp) 78, 73; T. Blom (Den) 73, 78; W. Riley (Aus) 73, 78; J. Haeggen (Swe) 72, 77  
150: A. Oldcorn 77, 73; J. Townsend (US) 72, 78; B. White (US) 80, 70  
151: L. Jensen (US) 74, 77; P. Ashgar (US) 74, 77; M. Halberg (Swe) 75, 72  
152: R. Tivy (US) 78, 73; S. Ballesteros (Sp) 74, 70  
153: G. Brown 74, 80  
154: P. Lawrie 78, 77  
155: K. Fukunaga (Japan) 78, 81  
156: J. Baker-Finch (Aus) 78, 84  
Withdrawn: S. Langer (Ger), disqualified: S. Campbell (NZ).  
\* denotes amateur

## FOOTBALL: CHAMPIONS AGREE HIGHER FEE FOR CZECH INTERNATIONAL

### United close to sealing Poborsky deal

BY DAVID MADDOCK

KAREL POBORSKY, the Czech Republic midfielder player, will fly into England early next week to complete his transfer to Manchester United for an increased fee of £4

million, Maurice Watkins, United's legal director, confirmed yesterday that lengthy and, at times, frustrating negotiations were near to completion.

"Things are progressing and we expect to see the player

in Manchester early next week," he said. The deal was delayed when Slavia Prague, Poborsky's club, received an offer more lucrative than the £3.5 million United had originally agreed. Poborsky is likely to make his debut in a pre-

season match in Ireland next weekend.

His arrival could signal the end of Lee Sharpe's career at Old Trafford. The England winger had discussions with Alex Ferguson, the United manager, over his future last season and the arrival of Poborsky puts him under more pressure. Tottenham Hotspur and Coventry City are monitoring developments and Tottenham have made a formal inquiry. Coventry yesterday signed Michael O'Neill, the Hibernian winger, for £300,000.

One player who will not be at White Hart Lane to welcome Sharpe, should he arrive, is Erik Thorstved, who was due to link up with Wolverhampton Wanderers today at their training camp in Salzburg. The 33-year-old Norwegian international goalkeeper is expected to finalise his free transfer as the first division club prepares for a tour of Austria and Germany.

Bogdan Stelcea, who played for Romania in the European championship, is another in-demand international goalkeeper. Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, is hoping to give Stelcea, who is out of contract at Steaua Bucharest, a permanent home at Roker Park after he impressed during a loan spell.

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## CYCLING

### Moncassin steals Zabel's limelight

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

FREDERIC MONCASSIN won a close mass sprint to record his second stage victory of this year's Tour de France yesterday. Moncassin, of France, narrowly beat Erik Zabel, of Germany, and Fabio Baldato, of Italy, into second and third place at the end of the nineteenth stage, a flat, 226.5-kilometre ride from Hendaye.

Zabel had victory in sight, but the 27-year-old from Toulon rushed past him in the final few metres to win by half a wheel. Moncassin, who had won the first stage on June 30 in the Dutch city of Den Bosch, had been overshadowed since by the powerful Zabel, winner of two stages in Nîmes-sur-Oise and Gap. The Frenchman took his revenge in style by depriving Zabel of a second successive win in the stage in Bordeaux.

The outcome brought no changes to the leading overall standings. Bjarne Riis, of Denmark, is still firmly in command two days before the end of the race in Paris on Sunday. Riis received his fresh yellow jersey from the French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, who is the mayor of Bordeaux. However, it was not just the finish that was being talked about after the finish.

A local rugby team spiced up the middle section of the stage when they paraded along the route equipped with only fig leaves as protection against the sun.

Riis still holds a comfortable lead of 3min 59sec over Jan Ullrich, of Germany. Riis, 32, has little to fear from the 63.5-

kilometre time-trial from Bordeaux to Saint-Emilion today and the traditional final parade on the Champs-Élysées tomorrow should see him crowned as the first Dane to win the race.

Yesterday's ride, in stifling heat through the Landes forest, came to life in the last 40 kilometres when Gilles Talant, of France, and Marc Wauters, of Belgium, managed to escape. They built a lead of up to two minutes but the sprinters' team-mates then led the chase and pinned them in five kilometres from home. "I arrived a bit later than I

Results ..... 41

wanted to but it didn't matter in the end," Moncassin said. "I stayed behind the other sprinters because I felt good and I knew I could finish strongly. I'm delighted to win here. The Bordeaux stage is often one for sprinters and I certainly wanted to fare well in it."

Riis, who stayed safely within the pack, said he would love to underline his dominance Tour by winning today's stage. "I have better morale than the other riders and it would be a good way of finishing the Tour," he said. He can expect little trouble from the last stage in Paris, which usually ends in a sprint. Eddy Merckx, five times a winner of the Tour, was made a baron in Belgium's National Day honours list yesterday. Merckx, who retired 18 years ago, was granted the honour by King Albert.

**FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS**

The companies listed have registered their golf day for the 1996 Challenge. The top four individual scorers on the day will form the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

Date	Company name	Venue	Players
22 JUL	NOVA TRAVEL LIMITED	HEYDON GRANGE	20
23 JUL	PREMIER PROPERTIES PLC	FERRIDOWN	16
23 JUL	GRANT THORNTON	DENUM	28
23 JUL	PURCHASE TRUSTEES LIMITED	CASTLE ROYLE	20
23 JUL	RANGER OIL (UK) LIMITED	THE WISLEY	16
24 JUL	CALL CONNECTIONS LTD	FOREST OF ARDEN	70
24 JUL	MEESPIERSON NV	LINDORICK	30
25 JUL	BANKERS INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS LTD	DESFORDSHIRE	40
25 JUL	COOPERS & LYBRAND	ARCOT HALL	55
25 JUL	GREENWOODS SOLICITORS	ELTON PURZE	32
25 JUL	KERR MCGEE OIL (UK)	HARLEYFORD	48
25 JUL	MILLS ASSOCIATES LTD	ROLLS OF MOWMOUTH	24
25 JUL	PAULL & WILLIAMSON	DEESIDE	40
25 JUL	WHYTE & MACKAY	PATSHILL PARK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	48
26 JUL	ALSDOP WILKINSON	STOKE PAGES	40
26 JUL	ARCHER LEASURE	EFFINGHAM	36
26 JUL	ARMSTRONG WATSON & CO	MATTEN	35
26 JUL	AXA EQUITY & LAW	OISS	50
26 JUL	DDTS TRANSPORT LTD	WITHINGTON	40
26 JUL	DIANES GROUP LTD	NAZING	30
26 JUL	MORLEY GROUP LTD	TYNEDISE	40
26 JUL	HOYSCOT JERSEY LIMITED	ROYAL JERSEY	30
27 JUL	ESTOILE LTD	WEXHAM PARK	24

FOR ENTRY DETAILS OR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 0171 436 3415

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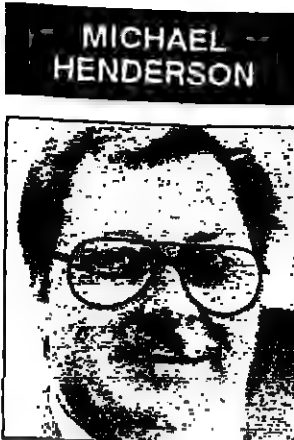
# Couples tops bill with mixture of magic and farce

FRED COUPLES was unavailable for interview last night, which did not surprise anybody. After a brush-up and change of costume, he went off to Blackpool's North Pier, where, at the "second house", he performed feats that would have thrilled the mysterious Mr Kite the Beatles used to sing about. The audience was still calling for more at midnight.

Lucky punters, you might think, to see such a harlequin at work — except he had already given a spiffing show over 18 holes six miles down the road. In view of what unfolded on the second afternoon of this Championship, Couples should really have been introduced on the 1st tee by Leonard Sachs, complete with gavel and preposterous adjectives. It was a performance and a half and it is doubtful that even he knows how he managed to complete it without either bursting with laughter or weeping buckets.

The facts reveal that he went round in 70, one under par, and now stands at five under overall. It is a respectable position and he may improve it considerably today, but, for four hours yesterday, under another baking sun, he added to the gaiety of the galleries with an eye-popping turn. He really ought to have played an extra hole as an encore.

He went out just as Jack Nicklaus came in and his morning hopes were of keeping the Stars and Stripes flying high. What little he knew! The previous day, he gave voice to the thought "I like it rough" and, if the course and conditions could not



At Royal Lytham and St Annes

oblige him, the valkyries that guard golfers took him exactly at his word.

In the first three holes, he dropped three shots and looked like a man who had reached for the sugar and put salt in his tea. Amazingly, he got them back in the next two holes, with an eagle at the par-five 7th after a six-iron got him within five feet of the pin. This was giddy stuff. Couples could make no more sense of it than Mark McCumber or Padraig Harrington, fellow travellers on this magic carpet ride.

At the 10th, he sank a 20-foot putt and after 13 holes he had rallied magnificently to go seven under. Yet bogies on the 15th and 17th holes cost him a glorious chance to cut into the lead Nicklaus and others had built, no matter how hard he rattled those chains. It was an ordinary end to an extraordi-

nary round and he went off looking dog-tired.

McCumber was also a disappointed man. Birdies at the 2nd, 5th, 6th, 11th and 12th holes took him nine under, but he dropped shots on four of the last six to finish on 69, six under for the tournament. "It's not the way you want to finish," he said later, "but those are testing holes. If you'd said I'd be six-under and in the top ten after 36 holes, I'd have definitely taken it."

"The Americans all want to play well here, just like the top Europeans all want to do well when they come to play majors in America. Golf is now an international game. I love playing in Scotland and England and I played with a young Irishman today who has a lot of talent."

Harrington, a 24-year-old Dubliner, is 20 years younger than the man who spoke of him in such warm tones. It was evident from the easy way the players mixed on the course that they were enjoying themselves and Harrington has hardly suffered by comparison in his first Open alongside these magnificent Americans. When he sank a birdie at the 12th from 15 feet, McCumber openly applauded his audacity. That was the spirit in which this threesome was conducted.

"I couldn't have asked for two nicer guys to play with," Harrington said. He chipped into the 18th hole from a bunker to bring down the curtain on a bizarre, enthralling round. With his youthful looks and straw boater, he resembled a sap from *Salad Days*, but there was nothing of the ingenué about his golf. He, too, is six under par and can sleep easy, for he has put down a marker for the future.

With his approach shot to the final hole, McCumber struck the clubhouse wall, the ball rebounding on to the green. "I thought it was flying right through the window, and into someone's beer!" he joked. Actually, it missed a crouching figure by 18 inches, no more, and if anybody suggests I was sleeping I shall take Imran Khan's route to the High Court.

It was a memorable day and, with Nicklaus playing like a man half his years, Els ready to charge and Faldo poised like a big cat, it is shaping up to be a memorable Open — though, in their different ways, they all are. Now let's see what stuns The Amazing Mr Couples can pull off today.



Nicklaus doffs his cap in acknowledgement of the gallery's standing ovation at the 18th hole yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

## Sublime Nicklaus rolls back the years

By JOHN HOPKINS

As Jack Nicklaus walked into the amphitheatre of the 18th green and acknowledged the standing ovation he received from spectators in the tiered grandstands on both sides, one wondered which was the greater: his golf or his telephone bill?

After a delightful morning's golf, Nicklaus had a short putt for a 65, six under par, which would have put him into a tie for the lead with Paul McGinley. Yet the fact that he was able to play at all was due to several hours' worth of telephone calls to Pete Egoscue, an anatomical functionalist in San Diego.

To be with Nicklaus, who started just after 8.30 yesterday morning, was to be taken back in time. The years peeled away like onion skins. You could not believe that this man was 56 because he was

playing as if he was 26. He rapped in putts with confidence and, though his pitching and chipping were once the weakest parts of his game, on this glorious sunlit morning he pitched with the touch of a Severiano Ballesteros.

Egoscue, a former Marine with an expert knowledge of the body, was the man who had got Nicklaus's back out of a series of spasms on Wednesday night and Thursday morning. Nicklaus has consulted him for a number of years, and after the two long telephone calls before Nicklaus's first round, he received a 20-page fax from Egoscue yesterday morning.

From the start, Nicklaus looked more relaxed than he had the previous day and when he hit his first shot to six feet and holed the putt, it was clear it was going to be a round of some consequence. Nicklaus is at heart a conservative and he used his driver



THE OPEN

on the outward half only on the two long holes and on the 11th, 14th and 15th on the homeward half.

Though he gave up a lot of distance to Brand and Shigeki Maruyama, his playing partners, he outscored them both. It did not take long to realise why he kept his driver in his bag for most of the morning. He was uncertain with it. On

the 11th, he hooked his tee shot and was lucky to find his ball sitting up well. Only on the 15th did he hit a solid, and straight, drive, and then his ball ran into a bunker.

To watch Montgomerie one day and Nicklaus the next was to be reminded of the virtues of the latter that the former could adopt. Nicklaus was at ease with himself, a performer on stage, in command of everything. He was completely focused on the task in hand, even if his poor eyesight meant that he could not always see it.

As he drove on the 12th he ignored the noise of spectators passing by in the cope around the members' tee. As he attempted to hole a nine-foot putt on the 13th, one that caught the side of the hole and veered away, he seemed oblivious to noise coming from the left of the green. Even when he hit a bad tee shot on the 11th he kept himself in check,

limiting his outburst to nothing more profane than: "Oh Jack! Good gracious."

When he was hunched over his putt on the 15th a train rattled along in the distance. Nicklaus did not flinch, his concentration seeming as great as Joyce Wethered's had been in a now famous golfing incident. A train passed the 17th at Sheringham as she putted in the 1921 English Amateur. "What train?" she replied, when asked if she had been disturbed. Montgomerie would benefit from some of Nicklaus's imperturbability.

Nicklaus's wish for today is to be able to get out of bed with two feet on the ground and remain like that. The wish of everyone who followed him yesterday, and a good many who did not, is that he can play in his third round as he did in his second. Yesterday, Nicklaus lit up the Open. Yesterday, Nicklaus was a hero once again.



Couples offers a helping hand to an attempted birdie putt yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

### GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

#### Today

**CRICKET**  
Britannic Assurance county championship  
11.0, third day of four, 104 overs minimum  
CHELSEA: Essex v Nottinghamshire  
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Derbyshire  
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Middlesex  
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Durham  
HARROGATE: Yorkshire v Hampshire

11.0, final day of four, 98 overs minimum  
GUILDFORD: Surrey v Sussex  
Tatley Challenge Series  
11.0, first day of three  
CANTERBURY: Kent v Pakistanis

Tour match  
11.0, first day of three  
TAUNTON: Somerset v South Africa A  
UNDER-19 ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL  
MATCH: Trent Bridge: England v New Zealand (10.45)

**RUGBY LEAGUE**  
Stones Super League  
Paris Saint-Germain v Wigan (7.30)  
Warrington v Bradford Bulls (6.00)

#### FOOTBALL

PRE-SEASON MATCHES: Cambridge v Reading (3.0); Cork v Manchester City (7.30); Middlesbrough v Chester (5.0).

#### OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: National Time Trial Series (fourth round, 31 miles, Epsom, 3.0) Group Wheelers: Ten Miles (North Cave, 2.0).  
GOLF: Open Championship (Royal Lytham and St Annes)  
SPEEDWAY: Premier League (7.30): Bradford v London; Coventry v Scottish Monarchs; Epsom v Peterborough; Swindon v Welsh Conference League; Middlesbrough v Birmingham (7.30).  
TENNIS: Men's tournament (Wimbledon)

#### Tomorrow

**CRICKET**  
AXA Equity & Law League  
2.0, 40 overs  
CHELSEA: Essex v Nottinghamshire  
CHELTENHAM: Gloucestershire v Lancashire  
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Derbyshire  
GUILDFORD: Surrey v Sussex  
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Durham

HEADINGSLEY: Yorkshire v Hampshire  
2.10, 40 overs  
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Middlesex

Tatley Challenge Series  
11.0, second day of three  
CANTERBURY: Kent v Pakistanis

Tour match  
11.0, second day of three  
TAUNTON: Somerset v South Africa A

MCC TROPHY (50 overs): Semi-final: Warrington: Cheshire v Buckinghamshire. Durbanville: Bedfordshire v Wales.

WINDSOR COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of two): Colwyn Bay: Wales v Devon.

#### RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League  
Castellford Tigers v Sheffield Eagles (3.30)

Hatfield Blue Sox v Warrington (8.0)

London Broncos v Leeds (3.0)

First division  
Barnley Bulldogs v Featherstone (5.30)

Hull v Huddersfield Giants (6.0)

Wakefield v Widnes (6.0)

Whitehaven v Keighley Cougars (3.30)

Second division  
Bramley v Hull Kingston Rovers (5.0)

Cardiff v Doncaster Dragons (3.0)

Chorley Magpies v Farnborough (6.0)

South Wales v Leigh Centurions (at Cardiff Arms Park, 6.0)

#### FOOTBALL

PRE-SEASON MATCH: Shamrock v Hearts (3.0)

#### OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: Yorkshire CF (15 miles, Baldersby, 8.0am).

GOLF: Open Championship (Royal Lytham and St Annes)

MOTORCYCLING: British Grand Prix (Donington Park)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Peterborough v Scottish Monarchs (5.30). Conference League: Epsom v Exeter (5.30). Peterborough v Lintford (7.0).

## Benson guides Ireland to European success

IRELAND won the inaugural European cricket championship yesterday when they overcame Holland by three wickets in a tense final in Brondby, Denmark (David Townsend writes). Justin Benson, the Ireland captain, appeared to be leading his side to a comfortable victory after his bowlers had restricted the Dutch to 223 for nine from 50 overs.

Decker Curry, who claimed three for 33 with his off spin, then filled the role of "pinch-hitter", striking nine boundaries in a rapid 55, and, with Benson hitting two sixes on his way to 79, the target had been reduced to 81 from 25 overs. An aggressive spell of medium-pace bowling by Tim de Leede had the Irish stumbling, but Ryan Eagleson saw them home with 21 not out.

## Champions in the money

FOOTBALL: Clubs competing in the European Cup Champions' League received substantial pay rises yesterday as Uefa, the sport's European governing body, announced a series of increases in prize-money for the coming season.

The teams reaching the final will see the biggest increase, with each receiving \$Fr 4 million (about £2 million), about 14 per cent more than Juventus and Ajax received last season.

## Fulton fit to play

CRICKET: Kent, the county championship leaders, will field their strongest side available for the Tatley Bitter Challenge against the Pakistanis, starting at Canterbury today. David Fulton, the Kent opening batsman, has recovered from a virus. □ Devon Malcolm, the former England fast bowler, will turn out for Wexham, the Central Lancashire League team, in the derby with Oldham, today.

## Cardiff keep Davies

RUGBY UNION: Cardiff have rejected Llanelli's offer to sign their former stand-off half, Jonathan Davies. Llanelli had hoped Cardiff would release the former Wales union and league captain to play at stand-off and become backs coach. Davies has failed to make the expected impact at Cardiff since his switch from Warrington rugby league club last season.

## Ogre hit target

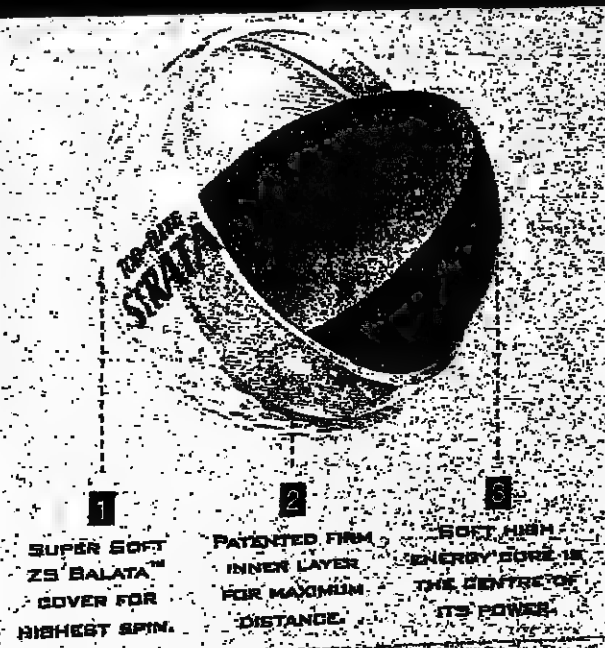
RIFLE SHOOTING: The Old Greshamians Rifle Establishment (Ogre) won the Astor County Championship Cup at Bisley yesterday with 625 points out of a possible 630, the highest score ever made for the event. Surrey, represented by the Old Epsomians RC, made the same total, but Ogre won by 91 V-bulls to 90.

This year  
we'll be seeing  
more rounds  
at the Open  
than ever before.



Gillespie's Malt Stout.  
Official Beer of the 1996 Open Golf Championship.

TODAY IS THE DAY  
GOLF CHANGES.  
INTRODUCING THE MULTI-LAYER  
TOP-FLITE STRATA



TOP-FLITE STRATA  
http://www.topflite.com







# Hello will appreciate extended trip

NEWBURY  
BBC1

1.30: There were some long faces as Crystal Crossing failed to justify heavy support on her debut here three weeks ago. The Robert Sangster-owned filly has always worked well on the Manton gallops and no doubt she will be a warm order again here. In the circumstances, the progressive Victory Dancer is offered as a value alternative.

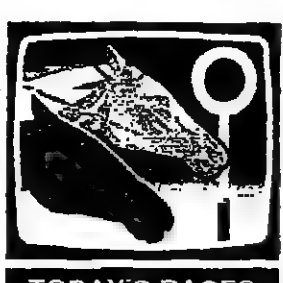
2.00: Wolf Mountain looks sure to win races, having shown plenty of promise when finishing a head behind the gambled-on Fun Galore here last month. However, I am

keen on the chances of Hello, now that the John Dunlop-trained runner tackles seven furlongs for the first time. After making a winning debut at Doncaster, the stoutly-bred colt did particularly well to finish fifth in the Coventry Stakes.

2.30: see facing page.

RICHARD EVANS  
NEWMARKET  
CHANNEL 4

3.45: Of those with experience, Doubly-Hi, Feel Alive and Supremism showed little on their respective debuts. Better possibilities surround the newcomers. Undercover



TODAY'S RACES  
ON TELEVISION

Agent is from a stable packed with juvenile talent, while Serenity is bred to be sharp. But the one to beat here is Man Howa, who, after a tardy start, chased home the highly-regarded Yashmak at Newmarket last month.

4.15: North Song had Hidden Oasis and Brandon Magic behind over this trip at Royal Ascot. John Gosden's representative has since met with defeat over this course and Hidden Oasis can turn the tables with a 7lb pull.

However, Missile is preferred. On his most recent start, Missile was beaten too early at Sandown for the trip to be blamed. He had previously displayed a sharp turn of foot to land a similar event at York; this straight mile and fast ground be ideal. Really A Dream is unproven beyond seven furlongs, but Go Britannia is preferred to How Long, despite succumbing to Luca Cumani's runner at Sandown.

4.45: It usually pays to follow recent form in these handicap sprints and Tedburrow had Lago Di Varana, Sea-Deer, Femme Savante and Saint Express behind when touched off at York last week. He should again go well over this testing five furlongs. Tadeso and Bowden Rose are rather approaching peak form but Bolshoi deserves the vote to follow up an impressive Beverley win. Jack Berry's runner appears on the upgrade and is best at this trip. Galine was unimpressingly ridden over an extra furlong here two weeks ago and cannot be ruled out.

JULIAN MUSCAT

## YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

### Newbury

Going: good to firm  
2.30 (8 furlongs) 1. Crystal Crossing (11.4) 2. Wolf Mountain (12.1) 3. Doubly-Hi (12.1) 4. Supremism (12.1) 5. Feel Alive (12.1) 6. Man Howa (12.1) 7. Yashmak (12.1) 8. North Song (12.1) 9. Brandon Magic (12.1) 10. Hidden Oasis (12.1) 11. Missile (12.1) 12. A Dream (12.1) 13. Go Britannia (12.1) 14. How Long (12.1) 15. Tedburrow (12.1) 16. Lago Di Varana (12.1) 17. Sea-Deer (12.1) 18. Femme Savante (12.1) 19. Saint Express (12.1) 20. Bolshoi (12.1) 21. Jack Berry (12.1) 22. Galine (12.1) 23. Tadeso (12.1) 24. Bowden Rose (12.1) 25. Bolshoi (12.1) 26. Jack Berry (12.1) 27. Galine (12.1) 28. Tadeso (12.1) 29. Bowden Rose (12.1) 30. Bolshoi (12.1) 31. Jack Berry (12.1) 32. Galine (12.1) 33. Tadeso (12.1) 34. Bowden Rose (12.1) 35. Bolshoi (12.1) 36. Jack Berry (12.1) 37. Galine (12.1) 38. Tadeso (12.1) 39. Bowden Rose (12.1) 40. Bolshoi (12.1) 41. Jack Berry (12.1) 42. Galine (12.1) 43. Tadeso (12.1) 44. Bowden Rose (12.1) 45. Bolshoi (12.1) 46. Jack Berry (12.1) 47. Galine (12.1) 48. 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OLYMPIC GAMES: TRACKING HIS FAMILY FOR LONG-AWAITED REUNION A PARAMOUNT OBJECTIVE FOR MIDDLE-DISTANCE ATHLETE

# Searching for more than Atlanta gold

Andrew Longmore  
meets an Irish runner  
hoping for one last  
twist in the most  
bizarre American tale



A FAMOUS face will appear in the Olympic village next week and Shane Healy cannot wait to see it again. Nouredine Morceli and Healy go back a long way, to the days when both were studying in California. They would meet in inter-state track championships, Healy struggling along at the back, Morceli tearing up the front. Their paths have crossed occasionally since and each time the reaction of Morceli, the world 1,500 metres champion, has been the same.

"He just shakes his head and mutters: 'You crazy Irish'," Healy said. "He won't believe it when he sees me here." He is not the only one. Healy himself is still blinking. "I haven't planned this," he said. "Everything has just fallen into place."

Healy is looking for two other faces in his life — more important faces. One belongs to his mother, Maureen, who walked out of the family home in Dublin one night in 1972 and never came back: the other to his elder sister, Lorraine, who left with her mother the same night. Healy was brought up by his father and, if any sense of bitterness once lingered in his slim frame, only sadness now remains alongside the battered old photo that he keeps.

"I've no idea whether she's alive or dead," he said. "I would just love her to see me race in the Olympics and come forward so that I can touch her and know that she is well."

All other avenues have failed. Two years ago, Healy saw a photo of a girl at the Galway Oyster Festival in a newspaper. The caption said



Healy proudly sports the Ireland colours as he contemplates what he might gain from his experience in Atlanta. Photograph: Marc Aspland

that she was Lorraine Healy. Healy rang her up. She was the right age, but she came from Cork, not Dublin, and had no brothers. There are two pieces of the jigsaw still missing," Healy said.

The puzzle is complicated enough as it is. Healy did not discover running until he was 21, five years ago. Before then, he had lived out the life of the Irish rover, moving from town to town, making do, never stopping too long, never finding what he was looking for.

An atlas has been the symbol of Healy's past, not a stopwatch. He has hauled buckets of cement up hills in Gibraltar, sailed boats across oceans, been a waiter in Hawaii, hitched across Canada when the windchill factor was minus 35, lived in camper vans and slept rough in Colorado. The characters which

pepper his adventures are pure James Joyce. He has a story for every town and tells them with a tongue that turns "r" into "w".

The search ended in the locker-rooms of a community college in California, where Healy had enrolled as a \$50-a-term general arts student and most of the students were black or Asian.

"I used to shower in the locker-rooms because I was living in the camper van at the time and I met some of the black sprinters who were on the college programme," he said. "They would say: 'Hey, coach, there's that mad Irishman'. The coach was a guy called Archie Owens and he knew the Irish had a good history of middle-distance runners — Eamonn Coghlan, Marcus O'Sullivan — so he said he would pay me \$50 to

run a mile. I didn't even know how many times round the track that was but 50 bucks was a lot of money. So I did it."

Healy clocked 4min 32sec in battered tennis shoes and a pair of old shorts. Owens said that he would pay Healy's weekly grocery bills if he agreed to join the track programme.

Fast forward to Adams State University, in Colorado, and a call to Joe Vigil, the doyen of United States middle-distance running. Healy is standing next to the bowling alley in Alamosa, Colorado, ringing Vigil, the head of the university's training programme. He had hitched from California. "Hey, son," Vigil said, "where are you? The bowling alley? Hang on."

"He knew he had someone special then because I wanted to run for him so bad," Healy

said. Within a year, Healy had an athletics scholarship at Adams and a personal best of 3min 45sec for 1,500 metres.

That was not the end of Healy's struggle, though: not by a long way. Last winter, he spent three months in a hostel for the homeless while training in Denver. Money was so tight that he was beginning to get desperate. Then — and this is a theme in Healy's life — another impromptu connection was made. An article in *Irish Runner* highlighted his plight. A researcher from RTE, the radio station, picked up the story. Healy was invited on to the Pat Kenny morning show and the Irish love of romance did the rest.

"Here I was, a kid from the backstreets who had done everything by myself, and they identified with that," he said. Sponsors came forward, the

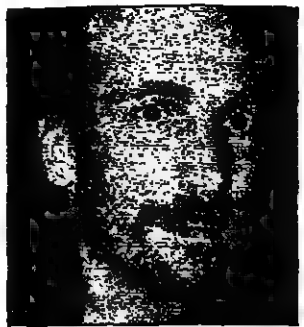
Irish Olympic fund granted him £2,000. He persuaded Eamonn Coghlan, the 1983 world champion at 5,000 metres, to be his coach. All he needed was to qualify for the Olympics, which he did, with typical panache, at the eleventh hour in burning heat in Madrid. Coghlan was so happy that he rushed out of his house and danced a jig.

Healy will do well to qualify for the semi-finals at the Games, but that matters little. If the world watches his 3½-minute run, the other half of his dream, might yet be fulfilled.

"It would mean more to me than an Olympic gold to find my mother," he said. "The running is important, it's brought me from nothing to here, but part of me is running for her."

## Women getting to grips with a not-so-gentle art

SIMON BARNES



Atlanta sketch

It's not a game for barts, you know. An ancient footballing expression, one traditionally tossed at a team-mate complaining of anything from a bruise to a broken leg. It says it all, really: us chaps, a mixture of comradeship and aggression. Not the sort of things that barts can relate to, is it?

So there I was, in a tiny contained-off cubicle, ten metres by ten, and in tremendous peril. Travelling circus used to put a man in a tiny cage on wheels containing half a dozen lions. It was all snarls and flashing claws and bared teeth while the lion-tamer desperately sought to hold his own with a bentwood chair and a whip.

It was like that with me and the Great Britain women's judo team. They had just flown in from their training camp in Tallahassee, where they had been going the tiniest bit stir-crazy. Now the Games were at last to begin and they were ready to rumble. It was wonderful, sitting there watching these women tearing the bejesus out of each other. Power, energy, purpose, it was splendid to be close to such things. They were not really trying to kill each other; at least, I don't think so.

This was a jam session, not a gig. Ideas were picked up, explored, discarded. This was controlled experiment and work-out, a session that got body and mind working with speed and precision. They were going at each other at about 80 per cent. As the Duke of Wellington said, I hope they frighten the enemy because they terrify the life out of me.

"First blood wound of the day," the physio, Karen Sibilla, said, mopping up the claret. "Our women," Neil Adams, the team manager, said, "have got to be as physical as other fighters."

The other fighters must be something, then. The last time I saw Nicola Fairbrother, it was in a tea-shop in Sandhurst. They would not serve her if they saw her as I did, shock of blonde hair all over the place, teeth bared, hands curved like grappling irons, the light of battle in her eyes. Wonderful stuff.

There should be medals coming to this little room full of fighters, but you can make your own guess about who

and what colour. "Judo is a crazy, unpredictable event," Fairbrother said. "Especially at the Olympic Games."

These are the women's Games all right. They say this every year, but only because it is true. Every year brings on more Olympic women. One hundred years ago, at the first Olympics, there were 311 athletes, all of them male. In 1900 two sports were open to women, golf and tennis, and there were 11 competitors.

This year there are 10,700 athletes and 3,779 of them are women, more athletes and more women than ever before. There is scarcely a sport they will not contest and two of them, admittedly rather daft ones, are for women only, these being synchronised swimming and rhythmic gymnastics. These judo fighters are something a little more substantial than chocolate-box femininity. Odd to think that women's judo has only been a full Olympic sport once before.

While the United States is getting just a little bit bored with the tackiness of the *Dream Team* of millionaire basketball players, there are all kinds of good vibes going for the American women's basketball team. The Reality Team, if you like. Professional women's basketball is due to start in the United States after the Games and promoters are eager to launch it with a touch of gold.

The players themselves look purposeful and tough, rather than Flo-Jo glamorous. Among them is Sheryl Swoopes, who has a great name and is now celebrated as the first woman in history to have a pair of sneakers named after her: I'll take a pair of Air Swoopes.

Business is at the heart of much of this. Woman as audience, as client, as customer. NBC plans to show no boxing at all at prime time, because women always switch it off. Their biggest sell is the women's gymnastics. But strip away the layers of blitz and marketing and nonsense and you come down to what matters. Refine this further and find the distilled essence of it all in a small room at a place called Grady High School. The truth about women's sport is to be found in the Fairbrother smart.



Fairbrother: has the light of battle in her eyes

## Rendle ready to live up to great expectations

FROM JOHN GOODBODY  
IN ATLANTA

GREAT Britain expects medals and judo has not disappointed in the past six Olympic Games. Since 1972, 40 Britons have competed in judo at the Games and they have won a total of 15 medals.

Neil Adams, who took silver medals in 1980 and 1984, believes that almost any of the squad could finish on the podium. "We have chances in virtually every category," he said. There are 14 categories,

seven for the men, seven for women, and Britain has competitors in 13 of them.

Adams said: "Yesterday's draw was a mixture of good and bad things. At this level, we cannot expect anything else. Some will rise to the occasion, but all matches at this level are hard."

Because of the tough qualifying system, only 63 countries are represented here, but these are the genuine elite of the sport. In previous Games, people did not have to qualify and a fighter could draw a

relatively easy opponent in the early rounds.

Adams picked out the featherweights, Sharon Rendle, the 1996 European champion, and Julian Davies, runner-up at those championships in May, as having secured the most favourable draws. They compete on Thursday. Rendle, 30, from Hull, finished first at the 1988 Games, when women's judo was only a demonstration sport, and was third in 1992.

The first Briton to compete will be Michelle Rogers, from

Manchester, who takes part in the heavyweight category today. At the European championships in May, she overcame more experienced opponents and is now rapidly fulfilling the promise she demonstrated when she took the European junior title in 1994.

The team would gain tremendously in spirit and confidence if Rogers, 20, or either of the light-heavyweights, Ray Stevens and Kate Howey, got in the top three. Both Stevens and Howey won medals in Barcelona in 1992.

Stevens fights in the most demanding of all categories, which is bristling with technically proficient and immensely aggressive 15st men. They include Pawel Nastula, the world and European champion, from Poland, and Stéphane Tréneau, nicknamed "The Tornado", from France. Stevens, 32, will do well if he wins a medal. However, with her sudden pick-up and change of pace, she has a better chance, provided that she can maintain her tempo until the end of the contest.



Fairbrother: has the light of battle in her eyes

## Britons face testing start

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN ATLANTA

GREAT Britain's hockey teams begin their medal chase this weekend with the women taking on South Korea today and Holland tomorrow, while the men open against South Korea tomorrow.

David Whittle, the men's team manager, said here yesterday that the players were fit and raring to go, committed to earning as many points as possible in what seems to be the toughest of the two groups. Many of the team are sporting short haircuts to cope with the heat and humidity.

A 2-1 victory over India in a training match here on Tuesday, with goals by McGuire and Giles, has given the team added confidence for the match against South Korea. Russell Garcia, who at 18 became the youngest player to win an Olympic gold medal for hockey, remembers the opening match against South

Korea in Seoul in 1988. Then, the Koreans came back after conceding two goals to draw 2-2 with Britain, who went on to win gold. Britain's recent record against South Korea has been disappointing, drawing 1-1 in the six nations' tournament here in April and losing 2-0 in Malaysia in May.

Whittle does not underestimate the Koreans having seen their relentless attacking play against Australia in Malaysia where, after a 1-1 draw, they defeated the Australians on penalty strokes after a scoreless final. However, he believes that with the right strategy, Britain could disrupt their rhythm.

Jason Lee arrived here on Wednesday as a replacement for the injured Robert Thompson. Lee is likely to fill a left side attacking position, which opens the door for Daniel Hall at centre forward.

A poor run-up to the Games has not dampened the enthusiasm of Britain's women who still believe they have the potential to win a medal. Half the side that won the bronze medal four years ago in Barcelona are in the squad.

Much will depend on the stability in defence of Karen Brown who has made 132 appearances for Great Britain and 109 for England. Jill Atkins, Brown and Jane Sixsmith played in Seoul. Rhona Simpson, of Scotland, has scored 12 goals since November in 22 appearances and Sixsmith was joint top-scorer with Hentschel, of Germany, in Barcelona with five goals. Nevertheless, it will take a superlative effort to suppress the Koreans today.

In their match tomorrow, Britain will be seeking to avenge their 1-0 defeat by Holland at Milton Keynes.

## Henman's path leads to date with Agassi

TIM HENMAN has avoided an early date with any of the big guns in the Olympic tennis tournament. He plays Shizuo Matsuoka, of Japan, in the first round and, should he reach the quarter-finals, is likely to meet Andre Agassi — although the American has a dangerous first-round opponent in Jonas Björkman, of Sweden.

Britain's other representative in the men's event, the big-serving Greg Rusedski, takes on Javier Frana, of Argentina, in the opening round. Clare Wood, of Brighton, the only Briton in the women's singles, has a difficult first match against Silvia Farina, from Italy.

Peter Rife, a world championships bronze medal-winner from Norway, will not compete in the canoeing events after testing positive for the stimulant ephedrine.

## Draw helps favourites

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

THE Olympic Games began well for Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent yesterday. The draw for the rowing events at Lake Lanier — "the best rowing venue that has ever been created," according to David Tanner, the British team manager — has kept the favourites for the coxless pairs' gold medal away from Italy, France and Australia, their closest rivals on present form, in their first race.

It is a good thing, too. The pair, the first Britons to take to the water tomorrow, had planned to miss the opening ceremony until Redgrave — "very pleased and very honoured" — was asked to carry the British flag for the second successive Games. A hard race immediately after that was not what the duo had planned and Redgrave has made the concession of using the carrying pouch in Atlanta

that he eschewed in Barcelona.

Under a new system of seeding being introduced at these Games, the coxless four was the only other British crew to receive preferential treatment and, in tomorrow's race, they have avoided the Italian world champions and the Australian Olympic champions.

Other British performers have fared less happily. Peter Haining has a nightmare sculls heat that includes both Thomas Lange, the Olympic champion from Germany in 1988 and 1992, and Juri Jaanson, of Estonia, the 1995 World Cup-winner. Guin Batten faces Silke Laumann, the former world champion from Canada, and Trine Hansen, of Denmark, in her sculls heat.

Kate Mackenzie and Philippa Cross, late British qualifiers in the women's pairs, have

the French 1993 and 1995 world champions, Christine Gossac and Helene Cortin, in their heat, but could move to the semi-final if they beat either Romania or Russia. The men's double of James Cracknell and Rob Thatcher will challenge the Olympic champions, Davide Tizzano and Agostino Abbagnale, of Italy.

Four British crews do not start their Olympic quests until Monday, including the up-and-coming British lightweight double of Nick Strange and Andy Sinton, who face a tough heat that includes the fancied Italy and talented Ireland crews.

Perhaps surprisingly, the British team is happy with the heat and humidity. Redgrave's only complaint yesterday was: "It is ruining my suntan and I am old in the air conditioning."

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OLYMPIC GAMES: AMERICAN BOXERS ARE UPSET AT LOW TELEVISION BILLING AS SWIMMERS STRIVE TO SINK RIVALS IN THE POOL

## Boxing stunned by late blow

FROM JOHN GOODBODY

THE LIST of Americans who have won Olympic boxing gold medals and then gone on to become distinguished world champions reads like a roll call of the sport. Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier and Sugar Ray Leonard are just three of the boxers who have become role models for the young.

However, their possible successors are almost being ignored by the American media. Their backgrounds are just too unsavoury.

Antonio Tarver, 27, the light-heavyweight from Florida who is the country's best hope for a title here, was once addicted to crack, a derivative of cocaine. Lawrence Clay-Bey, 30, from Hartford, Connecticut, the team's 171st super-heavyweight, has been accused of sexual assault. Nate Jones, 23, a heavyweight from Chicago, has served 20 months for armed robbery. David Reid, 22, the light-middleweight from Philadelphia, is accused of assaulting his girlfriend, and the father of Floyd Mayweather, 19, from Grand Rapids, Michigan, is serving time for dealing in cocaine.

The team are upset that NBC, the host broadcaster, is not showing boxing during prime time in mid-evening, the sport will be screened between 12.30 and 2am, instead. This is a change of policy for the American network over what used to occur several Olympics ago.

American attempts to draft Todd Martin into their Olympic tennis squad have been rejected by the International Tennis Federation, forcing Richey Reneberg, the doubles specialist, to fill the gap left by the withdrawal of Pete Sampras, the world No 1, through injury.

"Dick Ebersol, the NBC sports president, said: 'When we put on boxing we lose up to 70 per cent of the female audience.' However, Clay-Bey said: 'The network has been reading about this team and decided not to show us.'"

Tarver added: "I believe it is a shame because of the character of these guys. The way we got here is great and the public should know. We are the last truly amateur sport left in the Games and we symbolise what amateur sport is all about. I think it's unfair to USA boxing that we get shut out like that from prime time NBC sports coverage. To uplift our sport and win back some of those fans that we have lost, including females, is an honourable ambition. Boxing is a beautiful sport."

Tarver claimed the team had been "stereotyped". "It is something that has been going on for some time and this team is trying hard. We have all had our ups and downs," he said.

"None of us was born with golden spoons in our mouths. We have always had to work hard against all odds. If you look at all the individual stories, how we came up and what it took to get to this point, I say that we did well. We beat all the odds."

Al Mitchell, the head coach, said: "There should be a lot of positives about these young men. They represent the inner city. Ninety-nine per cent of these guys are from the 'hood' [big city neighbourhoods]. Those are the guys who need role models, you've got a lot of positive stuff here... making the Olympics, being an Olympian, beating the problems you have."

"However, I guarantee the ones from the 'hood' have got a lot more grit because they are poor. I come from the 'hood' so I understand it."

## US search for cracks in China

FROM CRAIG LORD IN ATLANTA

THE swimming empire of China was not built in a day, it only felt like it in Rome 1994, when all three titles fell to the "new" golden flowers" at the opening finals session of the world championships.

First up, as she will be at the Georgia Tech pool in Atlanta today, was Le Jingyi, whose phenomenal 54.01sec world record in the 100 metres freestyle was half a second inside the previous best and 1.19sec faster than it took John Devitt, of Australia, to win the men's title in the same pool, the Stadio del Nuoto, at the 1960 Olympics.

If Le, 21, repeats her achievement today, watch the start and listen to the gasps. This muscular swimmer, the only daughter of a lift-maker's foreman in Shanghai, emerged from her dive half a bodylength up on rivals in Rome and turned at 50 metres a surreal 1.03sec ahead of world record pace and 0.79sec ahead of Franziska van Almsick, of Germany, who was eventually third in 54.77sec, but the rightful owner of the silver medal, Lu Bin, whose 54.15sec remains the second fastest ever, was suspended for steroid abuse within the month, one of 19 Chinese positive tests since 1991.

Le, whose stature prompted an Australian newspaper to run a full front-page picture of the swimmer's back, displaying the might of her wide shoulders in all their glory beneath the headline, "She's Back!", is likely to be challenged only by Shan Ying, 17, her team-mate, who is registered as being almost four inches shorter than the 5ft 11in van Almsick, 18, but looks almost as tall, and is said to be 1st heavier, at 11st, but looks bigger. Shan beat Le at the Chinese trials.

Those most likely to stop the Chinese pattern of Rome emerging are the Americans. Amy van Dyken, 23, who took up swimming to cure her asthma and postponed her honeymoon to concentrate on the Games, believes "the Chinese swimmers can and will be beaten" and that "we're stronger and faster". Perhaps Angel Martino-Myers, 29, will fit the bill. She returned to the sport in 1991 after a two-year suspension for steroid abuse. Van Almsick, third in Barcelona when she was 14, will again be a medal contender, while Karen Pickering, 24, seventh behind Le in Rome in a British record of 55.79sec, will attempt to become the first British woman since 1984 to make an Olympic swimming final.

Both women have a better chance of success tomorrow in the 200 metres freestyle, in which the German leads the world and Pickering was world short-course champion in 1993. Claudia Poll, the Costa Rican who claimed the same short-course title in 1995,



Mark Foster, of Great Britain, practises in the Olympic pool in Atlanta yesterday wearing his Aquablade suit

is among the favourites, but watch for Yan Chen, the 15-year-old swimmer who shares a name with a 17-year-old team-mate who swims backstroke and could cause some of the worst confusion at the Games.

Chen the younger also tops the world rankings for the 400 metres medley. Chen has never been seen outside China so the Olympic final, assuming the likelihood of her making it, will, amazingly, be her first international race. She will face the woman who stopped China's Lin Li at Barcelona, Kristina Egerszegi, of Hungary.

China will struggle to match the contenders for the 100 metres breaststroke crown tomorrow, the race likely to be all about Samantha Riley, the world champion from Australia, Penny Heyns, the world record holder from South Africa, and Amanda Beard, 14, from Irvine, California.

Torn Dolan, 20, the athlete with a congenitally narrow windpipe that on occasion restricts the passage of air to his lungs and has caused him to pass out twice in the water,

is likely to be the most popular finalist. The world record holder and champion at 400 metres medley from Virginia, will be challenged by Jani Sievinen, of Finland.

Paul Palmer, 21, of Britain, hopes to make the final of the 200 metres freestyle, though his better event is the 400m later in the week, and team-mate Richard Maden, 23, carries British hopes in the 100 metres breaststroke today. The event has produced two titles for Britain in the last four Games, but a place in the final would be great for Maden.

Although New Zealand remain the favourites, the absence of Todd, an individual gold medal-winner in the Games at Los Angeles and Seoul, is a severe blow to morale. A dejected Todd said yesterday that he was hoping to catch the first plane home.

With several other key withdrawals — including Jean Lou Bigot, the former European champion, from the France team and Dorothy Trapp, the world silver medal-winner, from the United States team — Charles Lane, the British team manager, is quietly optimistic about his horses. "They have all been working well," he said yesterday. "Their temperatures are taken daily and they have been weighed regularly and none have shown any ill effects."

No team could have a better pathfinder than Stark. He won a team silver in Los Angeles and team and individual silver in Seoul, and is one of the most experienced riders, at 41, in the field. In Stanwick

Ghost, a ten-year-old gelding owned by Lady Harrington, on which he was sixth at Badminton, he has a horse to match his talent. As a thoroughbred, he is also expected to cope well in the heat.

It was the selectors' concern over Mary King's King William in the heat that persuaded them to put him in the individual contest — together with Leslie Law, on New Flavour, and Charlotte Baile, on The Cool Customer — rather than his usual fourth spot in the team.

"He was bottomed out in the heat at the world championships in The Hague and there is always the chance he may remember that experience," Bridget Parker, the chairman of the selectors, said. If he does not, King will have an excellent chance for an individual medal.

Dixon, who had "psyched" himself up to competing in the individual event, was surprised to hear of her announcement in the team, but soon rallied. "I am quite happy — he is in good form and I know exactly the sort of places where he could make a mistake," she said.

Dixon, a team silver medal-winner in Seoul, is one of the more experienced riders, but Too Smart is capable of the odd mistake, as he showed at Badminton in May. Fox-Fitz and Parsonage both have reliable cross-country horses, although this is Cosmopolitan's first four-star event. He excelled himself at the European championship last September, where he helped to win the team gold medal. Parsonage's Magic Rogue has been clear twice at Badminton and once at Burghley.

The course, despite all the modifications necessary to ensure a safe competition in the heat, is, in the words of Michael Tucker, one of the selectors, "a proper Olympic course".

Although the distances are shorter, the fences themselves are in keeping with a four-star competition. "I'm delighted — it will suit us better," Lane said. The riders have their first course walk today.

## Three-day event team eager to take up reins

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR

A BUOYANT Great Britain three-day event team, led by Ian Stark, on Stanwick Ghost, sets out tomorrow in the Georgia International Horse Park to try to add the Olympic gold medal to its world and European titles.

The four in the team — subject to the first horse inspection this afternoon — are Stark, William Fox-Pitt (Cosmopolitan), Gary Parsonage (Magic Rogue) and Karen Dixon (Too Smart). Looking fit and bronzed after their three weeks' acclimatisation, the four yesterday exuded confidence — and an impatience to get started.

Fifteen teams are competing in the event, in which the horses' ability to cope with the heat and humidity (94F and 85 per cent humidity yesterday) is likely to dictate the outcome.

Several have already suffered setbacks. The most significant of these is the loss of Mark Todd from the New Zealand team after Kayem, his horse, pulled a shoulder muscle at the beginning of the week.

Although New Zealand remain the favourites, the absence of Todd, an individual gold medal-winner in the Games at Los Angeles and Seoul, is a severe blow to morale. A dejected Todd said yesterday that he was hoping to catch the first plane home.

With several other key withdrawals — including Jean Lou Bigot, the former European champion, from the France team and Dorothy Trapp, the world silver medal-winner, from the United States team — Charles Lane, the British team manager, is quietly optimistic about his horses. "They have all been working well," he said yesterday. "Their temperatures are taken daily and they have been weighed regularly and none have shown any ill effects."

No team could have a better pathfinder than Stark. He won a team silver in Los Angeles and team and individual silver in Seoul, and is one of the most experienced riders, at 41, in the field. In Stanwick

## EVENTS, TIMETABLE AND TELEVISION TIMES

All times BST

**Today**  
BASEBALL: Round-robin Nicaragua v United States (15.00); Australia v Cuba (20.00); Holland v Japan (01.00).  
BASKETBALL: Men's preliminary round: Pool A: China v Angola (20.00); Lithuania v Croatia (22.00); United States v Argentina (03.00). Pool B: Australia v South Korea (15.00); Greece v Yugoslavia (17.00); Puerto Rico v Brazil (01.00).  
BOXING: First round (bantamweight and welterweight; 18.30 and 01.00).  
FENCING: Men's individual epee, preliminaries (15.00) and final stages (20.00).  
FOOTBALL: Men's preliminary round: Pool A: Portugal v Tunisia (20.00); United States v Argentina (00.30). Pool B: Spain v Saudi Arabia, France v Australia (22.30).  
GYMNASTICS: Men's team compulsory (14.15, 17.30 and 21.30).  
HOCKEY: Men's preliminary round: Pool A: Spain v Germany (14.00); Pakistan v United States (22.30); India v Argentina (01.00). Women's round-robin: United States v Holland (14.00); Australia v Spain (16.00); Argentina v Germany (22.30); South Korea v Great Britain (01.00).  
SHOOTING: Men's Trap, preliminaries (15.00); 10-metre air pistol, preliminaries (16.30) and final (19.30). Women's 10-metre air rifle, preliminaries (14.00) and final (18.00).  
SWIMMING: Heats at 15.05 for evening finals. Final: Men's 100m breaststroke (00.53); 200m freestyle (01.43). Women's 100m freestyle (00.33); 400m individual medley (01.15).  
VOLLEYBALL: Women's preliminary round: Pool A: Holland v China (15.00); Japan v South Korea (22.30); United States v Ukraine (00.30). Pool B: Russia v Germany (17.30); Canada v Cuba (21.00); Brazil v Peru (03.00).  
WATER POLO: Preliminary round: Pool A: Holland v Yugoslavia (15.00); Australia v Russia (17.40); Spain v Germany (21.40). Pool B: Croatia v Greece (20.00); Ukraine v Romania (22.00); Italy v United States (03.00).  
WEIGHTLIFTING: Under 54kg: Group B (17.30) and group A (final; 21.00).  
WRESTLING: Greco-Roman: Under 48kg, under 57kg, under 68kg, under 82kg and under 100kg preliminaries (15.00) and classification (20.30).



JUDO: Men's over 95kg and women's over 72kg, preliminaries (14.30) and final (20.00).  
TELEVISION: BBC1: Olympic Grandstand 10.30am-5.10pm (with Open golf and racing from Newbury) and 8.30-9.30pm, 10.20pm-1.25am. BBC2: Olympic Grandstand 3.05-7.25pm (with Open golf). Eurosport: 24-hour coverage from 6am.

**Tomorrow**  
BASEBALL: Round-robin: Italy v South Korea (20.00); Cuba v Japan (01.00).  
BASKETBALL: Women's preliminary round: Pool A: Brazil v Canada (15.00); Japan v Russia (22.00); Italy v China (00.00). Pool B: China v Ukraine (17.00); United States v Cuba (20.00); South Korea v Australia (01.00).  
BOXING: First round (light-flyweight and heavyweight; 18.30 and 01.00).  
CYCLING: Women's road race (15.00).  
EQUESTRIANISM: Three-day event, team dressage (first day; 14.00 and 20.00).  
FENCING: Men's individual sabre, preliminaries (16.00) and final stages (20.00); women's individual epee, preliminaries (13.00) and final stages (20.00).  
SHOOTING: Men's Trap, preliminaries (14.00) and final (19.30); Women's 10-metre air pistol, preliminaries (14.00) and final (17.00).

**FOOTBALL: Men's preliminary round: Pool C: Italy v Mexico (19.30); Ghana v South Korea (20.00). Pool D: Brazil v Japan, Hungary v Nigeria (21.00). Women's preliminary round: Pool A: United States v Denmark, China v Sweden (22.30). Pool B: Germany v Japan (22.00); Norway v Brazil (22.30).  
GYMNASTICS: Women's team compulsory (14.30 and 20.00).  
HOCKEY: Men's preliminary round: Pool A: Holland v Malaysia (14.00); Great Britain v South Korea (22.30); South Africa v Australia (01.00). Women's round-robin: Spain v Germany (22.30); Holland v Great Britain (01.00).  
JUDO: Men's under 95kg and women's under 72kg, preliminaries (14.30) and final (20.00).  
ROWING: Men's Heats: Coxless pairs (14.00); double sculls (15.00); coxless fours (16.00); single sculls (17.00). Women's Heats: Coxless pairs (14.30); double sculls (15.30); single sculls (16.30).  
SOFTBALL: Round-robin: United States v Puerto Rico (14.00); Canada v Taiwan (16.00); Australia v China (22.30); Japan v Holland (02.00).  
SWIMMING: Heats at 15.05 for evening finals. Final: Men's 400m individual medley (00.53); 4 x 200m freestyle relay (01.43). Women's 200m freestyle (00.33); 100m breaststroke (01.21).  
VOLLEYBALL: Men's preliminary round: Pool A: Bulgaria v Cuba (22.30); Poland v United States (00.30); Brazil v Argentina (03.00). Pool B: Ukraine v Holland (15.00); South Korea v Italy (17.30); Yugoslavia v Russia (01.00).  
WATER POLO: Preliminary round: Pool A: Yugoslavia v Russia (16.00); Germany v Hungary (17.40); Holland v Spain (21.40). Group B: Romania v Croatia (20.00); Italy v Ukraine (22.20). United States v Greece (03.00).  
WEIGHTLIFTING: Under 54kg: Group B (17.30) and group A (final; 21.00).  
WRESTLING: Greco-Roman: Under 48kg, under 57kg, under 68kg, under 82kg and under 100kg classification (15.00) and final (20.30).  
TELEVISION: BBC1: Olympic Grandstand 9.30am-noon (The Essential Olympics). 7.30pm-10pm, Olympic Grandstand 10.15pm-4.25am. BBC2: Sunday Grandstand 12.30-7.30pm (with Open golf). Olympic Grandstand 9.10-10.15pm. Eurosport: 24-hour coverage from 6am.**

SAILING: SCOTTISH SUCCESS REVERSES THE TREND IN SIGMA 33 CLASS

## Pender turns the tide against England

By EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

SIMON PENDER, on the Clyde-based *St Joan*, yesterday held on to win the Sigma 33 national championship at Ford Cork Week, finishing tenth in the eighth and last race of the series, well ahead of his nearest rivals, John and Hillary Connelly, on *Phoenix*, who were well down the fleet and eventually retired.

Racing for a second successive day in very light easterlies on a coastal course outside Cork Harbour, the 73-strong fleet got away cleanly after a general recall and was

then led around the windward mark by David Wilson on *Vendaval*, with Jeremy Vines, on *Harmony*, second.

On a shortened course, Vines, from Hamble, won the race to the finish and took third place overall with 31.5pts. The Connells finished with 17.5pts, Pender with 14.5pts.

Pender has been a remarkably consistent performer, his tally of placings, after two discards, amounting to two firsts, two seconds, a third and a sixth.

This is the second time he has won the championship, having prevailed on his home

waters in 1994. He was second at Plymouth in 1992. He was delighted with the performance of his crew, which included his wife, Linda, and the yacht's owner, Ian Nicolson. He said the victory was achieved through a combination of consistency, good boat speed and good starts.

The Sigmas have enjoyed wonderful conditions at Cork where, for the first time in years, English and Scottish boats have competed against each other with the Scots prevailing, taking the top two places. The success of the class has already indicated to the regatta organisers that it

ought to return when Ford Cork Week is next staged, in two years' time.

The light winds caused chaos in the regatta's "A Fleet", which is made up of the biggest boats from Classes 0, 1 and 2. In the first race, a traffic jam formed at the first windward mark as three boats stopped dead in the water and the rest piled up behind amid much swearing and collisions.

The overall winner in Class 0 was the Bashford-Hovison 41 *Silk 2*, owned by Jocelyn Waller, ahead of two other BH 41s, Colin Barrington's *Surfin' Shoes* and Nigel Bramwell's *Hawk*.

# NEWS OF THE WORLD

## OLYMPIC CHAMPION BLOWS THE LID ON DRUG CHEATS

Atlanta 1996

ONLY IN TOMORROW'S NEWS OF THE WORLD



## CRICKET 40

ENGLAND'S LINE-UP  
THREATENED BY  
CHANGING FORTUNES

## SPORT

SATURDAY JULY 20 1996

## MOTOR CYCLING 41

DOOHAN TAKES HEAD  
START IN QUEST  
FOR BRITISH HAT-TRICK

## Olympic flame fires global warming

FROM DAVID MILLER  
IN ATLANTA

PAUL HENDERSON is a hands-on Toronto plumber. He is also president of the International Yacht Racing Union (IYRU). For the past 18 months he has spent an average five hours of every day, free of charge, attempting to ensure that the IYRU's regatta at Savannah, part of the centennial Olympic Games that begin here today, will be properly organised for the sailors.

The dedication of Henderson, who, as an international competitor, crossed swords with rivals such as Dennis Conner and Ted Turner, and understands Olympic ambitions, is representative of the thousands who willingly strive to retain historic ethical ideals. The multi-millions of Shaquille O'Neal, the basketball player, mean nothing to most of the other 10,361 competitors gathered in the Olympic village. Each is here for their private, personal dream.

The *New York Times* yesterday affected not to understand the term "Olympic movement". Frank

Deford, a famous but vain interviewer, had tricked Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee, in a foreign language, English, about the meaning on NBC television. Last night, an estimated two-thirds of the world's population was expected to be watching the Olympic ceremony of a movement that has endured for 100 years. Dick Pound, of Canada, and Kevan Gosper, of Australia, Olympic finalists a generation ago and now executive board members, defined the magic that still touches the emotions of mankind.

"It is the ultimate experience," Pound, a swimmer in 1960, said, "and the soul of the movement is the Olympic village — so many athletes, from so many countries, at the summit of their career. It hasn't changed. They are just better trained. A sporting career is not complete without Olympic participation." Gosper, a track silver medal-winner in 1956, said: "There is nothing bigger, nothing better, nothing more international."

In the last two days, tens of thousands have lined the streets of

Atlanta, as they have for three months across America, just for a glimpse of the Olympic torch as it passes by. Families have picnicked beside the road. "It was the experience of my life," an American photographer, who had run a kilometre-stage, told me.

Samaranch has been inaccurately quoted as suggesting that the Olympic movement was more important than the Catholic religion. What he said was that it has more followers than any single religion. In China and India, more people recognise the Olympic rings than the cross of Christianity.

An Olympic Games marks a city like no other event — forever. There may be cross decisions here by the organising committee, the Centennial Park and the sidewalks may be disfigured by gouging sales opportunities, but Atlanta will be imperceptibly altered for all time by the vision of Billy Payne and human-rights leader Andrew Young, a former Atlanta mayor, whose Christian and social convictions brought the Games home.

Starting today, there will be new heroes, and some old ones, such as



Steve Redgrave, trying again. Yet the Olympics are more about also-rans than are any other championships, which embrace only the elite. While Carl Lewis remains the legend of 1984, none have forgotten Gabriela Anderson-Schies as she gallantly tottered into the Colosseum at the end of the women's marathon. Nor Derek Redmond, of Britain, as he limped to the line on the shoulder of his father in Barcelona four years ago.

Olympic champions are imperishable. Waiting for yesterday's ceremony, I met Herb McKenley, the 400 metres winner in London in 1948. His hero, still, is Emil Zatopek, immortal for his treble of victories in the 5,000 metres, 10,000 metres and marathon. "Every step he took, you thought it was going to be his last," McKenley said. "His willpower was a reflection of the trials of all our lives. He was, and is, an inspiration."

Awaiting us these next two weeks are inspirational runners from Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Burundi, some as yet unknown, who run with a joy and freedom no commercialism can diminish. Between the world athletics championships of 1987 and those in Gothenburg last year, Kenya has won 34 world and Olympic medals: 17 gold, 11 silver and eight bronze.

Andre Agassi's tennis game may be adrift, but his father, Mike, competed for Iran's boxing team in 1948 and 1952, and nothing would keep Agassi Jr from participating. "To me it's a no-brain decision," he said of the choice by Jim Courier

and Michael Chang not to compete.

Chris Brasher, the steeplechase champion of 1956, is misguided in his decision to stay away this summer because of the prevalence of drug abuse. Drugs may cloud a few events, yet to capitulate is morally feeble, a contradiction of the hopes to which civilisation must cling. Without perseverance in adversity there would have been no Crusades, no Reformation, no Renaissance, no Industrial Revolution. The Games, I believe, will survive in spite of all.

Sadly, the IOC has necessarily taken the unofficial decision that never again will a city such as Atlanta be allowed to host a Games without government guarantees. In its scramble to break even on a \$1.7 billion budget — and still needing another \$100 million from unsold tickets — Atlanta has engaged in unseemly scuffling.

Conversely, the message of some sponsors' commercials is more ethical than sales-insensitive, oriented towards an honourable Games. In one, a small boy enters an empty stadium, in awe. He gets

into the starting blocks. As he runs 100 metres, he changes by degrees into an adult winning an Olympic medal. As he celebrates, he looks back down the track, and sees the tiny figure of his youth. They both smile. The commercial has run 86 seconds before the legend appears: "McDonald's. Proud sponsor of dreams coming true."

Leading article ..... 21  
Mum's the word for runner ... 46  
Women get to grips ..... 46  
Boxing's late blow ..... 47  
Backing China's swimmers ..... 47

I write this from a vast main press centre bursting at the seams with sponsors' electronic equipment that informs and simplifies the work of thousands of journalists.

As Pound, the IOC's financial negotiator, said: "You cannot organise a Games at today's level of expectation without the support of sponsors." Every athlete and journalist in Atlanta is a beneficiary of that.

## Irish qualifier storms in to share lead at halfway stage of the Open



McGinley plays out of a bunker during the second round at the Open yesterday, his 65 being good enough to give him a share of the halfway lead with Lehman

## Records fall to Gallian

JASON GALLIAN scored a splendid 312, the highest individual score seen at Old Trafford, as cricket records tumbled while Lancashire took control of their match against Derbyshire.

Gallian beat the 311 scored by Bobby Simpson in the 1964 Ashes series and also moved to fourth in Lancashire's all-time list of top scorers.

After batting throughout the first day to beat his previous career best of 171, the 25-year-old opener went on to face 583 balls while hitting 33 fours and four sixes. It was the first triple century in the championship since Brian Lara's 501 for Warwickshire against Durham at Edgbaston two years ago and only the tenth since the war.

Gallian gave just one chance, a sharp caught-and-bowled to Kim Barnett on 216, before holing out to Adrian Rollins at long-on 96 runs later.

Lancashire immediately declared on 587 for nine from 189 overs and then Glen Chappell reduced Derbyshire to 35 for two. They were 78 for two at the close and still need another 360 to avoid following on.

County reports, page 40

## Nicklaus revives days of yore

BY JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

JACK NICKLAUS lit up the Open scoreboards at Royal Lytham and St Annes yesterday in the way that he used to 25 years ago. In the early 1970s, when the 1.62in golf ball was the standard, it would have been no surprise to see Nicklaus going round in 66 and having a putt to tie for the lead. Indeed, it would have been expected of him. He loved the Open, Britons loved him — it seemed the natural order of things.

Now, though, Nicklaus is 56 and even he looks mortal. He has a waistline that he is fighting to control, hair that he is hoping not to lose and a back that he is trying to strengthen. He has acquired the status of an elder statesman because he is an elder statesman. Rounds like this one, which took him to seven under par and one stroke off the lead, are exceptional and to be treasured all the more because of that.

Nearly three-quarters of a century after the Open was won at this Lancashire course by Bobby Jones, the greatest amateur in golf, Nicklaus, the greatest professional that the game has known, reminded us of some of the virtues that he has demonstrated so successfully in his long career. He drew spectators out to watch him as in days of yore.

Jones, in 1926, is the only American to win an Open at Lytham, and, as he did it when he was 24, it is expecting a bit much for Nicklaus, a man more than twice that age, to go all the way and win, and thus end one of the more unusual records in golf.

His second round was vintage Nicklaus, nonetheless.

He started with a birdie and should have finished with one, too: in between, he demonstrated skill and control and that his nerve remains strong.

The last time that Nicklaus had a lower round than this in a major championship was when he won the 1986 Masters. The last Open in which he had consecutive rounds in the sixties was at the 1981 US Open. His last 66 in an Open was back in 1964, and the last time that he scored lower than this in an Open was in 1973, when he had a 65.

Nicklaus, who looked as though he enjoyed every minute of his round, later confirmed that this was indeed the case.

"That's why I'm here," he said. "Aren't you supposed to have fun? Don't you enjoy 66? If that's a form of torture, then torture me every day. The people were wonderful, but it's no fun waving to them when you're finishing at noon on Sunday or finishing at noon

on Friday and then setting off home. But when you're playing well and in contention, hell that's what you come for. That is what I played 40 years for."

It was a day of high temperatures and low scores, sunny and almost windless. There was magic abroad from the moment that Nicklaus birdied the 1st hole and Paul McGinley had a hole-in-one at the 9th, to the time that Severiano Ballesteros came to the 18th green to rapturous applause.

The second day of the 125th Open was one of those days when you simply did not know where to look for the next piece of excitement. Sometimes it came from the antics of a player such as Fred Couples, whose 18 holes comprised one eagle, four birdies, eight pars and five bogeys, and sometimes from the play of McGinley, whose misfortune was to play perhaps the round of his life and lead the Open on the day that Nicklaus roared.



## THE OPEN

McGinley's 65 for a 36-hole total of 134, eight under par, gave him the outright lead, though several players joined him on that figure at one point or another during their rounds before falling away again and before Tom Lehman birdied the 17th to go to eight under par and stay there.

Peter Hedblom, after a 65, and Ernie Els, after a 67, are

like Nicklaus, one stroke behind McGinley and Lehman. Lurking two strokes behind are Corey Pavin, who had a 66, Nick Faldo, a 68, Mark McCumber, a 69, and Padraig Harrington, a second successive 68. There are five major championship winners within three strokes of the lead.

Among those who missed the cut were Colin Montgomerie (73, 74), Steve Elkington, the US PGA champion (75, 70), Paul Azinger (74, 77), Lee Janzen, the 1993 US Open champion (74, 77), Ian Woosnam (75, 72) and Steve Jones, the US Open champion (73, 73). Ballesteros was ten over par; poor Ian Baker-Finch had 78 and 84 to be 20 over.

What do we know of McGinley, an Irishman with coal-black hair and a 1,000-watt smile? One memory is of him competing five years ago in the Walker Cup when, while watching a team-mate,

he walked into the middle of the fairway and said, confidently: "I am a player I can walk where I like."

Such confidence, allied to a charming nature, all mark him out from some of his less-gifted, taciturn contemporaries.

He had struggled in the wind during the Scottish Open at Carnoustie last week and then had to qualify for this event, but a 66 in his first qualifying round indicated that the rigours of Scotland had inflicted no lasting damage and this view was confirmed yesterday.

Five years ago, McGinley was one of 30 young golfers who attended a seminar conducted by Faldo at Weylyn Garden City. "Meeting Faldo took away the aura you have for the top stars," McGinley said. "These guys are very good, but they are not invincible. He had dinner with us, talked to us. He gave us tuition and played golf with us. I came away from there knowing he was an ordinary human being, the same as everyone else."

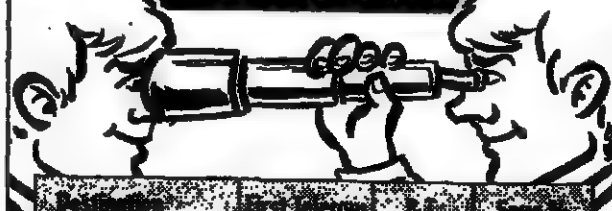
"I have dreamed of coming down the last fairway at an Open, not with Nick Faldo but with anyone. Well, I'm going to do that now. I've made the cut for the first time. There is not a lot expected of me. I shall just try and keep focussed. I am really looking forward to the weekend."

Michael Campbell, of New Zealand, who was joint-third in the Open last year, was disqualified yesterday after signing for wrong scores on his card. After rounds of 75 and 76, he would have missed the halfway cut anyway.

Faldo in groove, page 42  
Campbell's error, page 43

EARLY SECOND-ROUND LEADERBOARD																			
Royal Lytham and St Annes: Par 71 (5,882 yards)																			
Outward nine - 35 (3,330 yards); Inward nine - 36 (3,552 yards)																			
	Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Par	205	437	457	393	212	490	553	418	164	324	542	198	342	445	483	367	457	414
	Par	3	4	4	4	3	5	5	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
T Lehman	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	37
P McGinley	2	4	4	3	3	5	4	4	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	5	69
J McGinley	4	4	4	4	4	3	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	66
P Hedblom	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	66
E Els	4	4	4	4	3	5	4	4	3	3	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	4	67
M McCumber	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	67
C Pavin	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	66
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P Harrington	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	68
N Faldo	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	68
M Campbell	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	68

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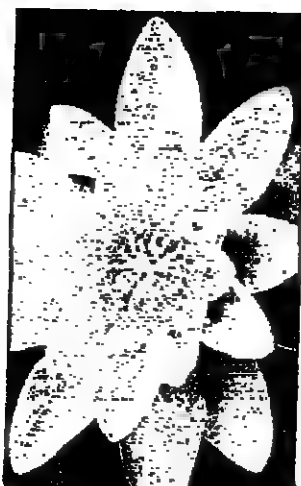


Take a child to the zoo — free

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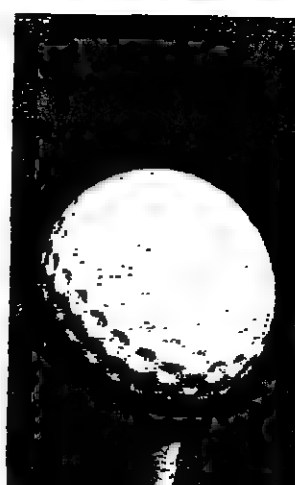


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# WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 20 1996

## JUMBO TALENT TRIUMPHS IN PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



Erica Wagner meets the children who took the winning pictures, and hears the judges' verdict

What's it like when a tiger looks you straight in the eyes? Alice Mauder, aged six, says it's pretty frightening, but she was brave enough to capture its fearful symmetry on film, and her photo of the feline taking a cooling dip at Woburn Zoo captured the prize for her age group in *The Times*/London Zoo photography competition.

The judges had their work cut out. The competition was launched on April 27, and since then more than 1,500 photographs — at least 400 from each age category of five to seven, eight to ten and 11 to 13 — of every kind of beast imaginable have been sent in to *The Times*. The judges — Peter J.S. Olney, director of the Federation of Zoos; Peter Stothard, Editor; and David Driver, head of design — had to choose between lions and leopards, peacocks and pandas, gorillas and geckos. They were impressed by the high standard of photographs, particularly those in the youngest category where they found it nearly impossible to find a winner out of four sharp, interesting pictures — three of them taken by Pierre Hyde, seven (far left), Alice Mauder and James Birch, seven, who are pictured here.

But that shouldn't have been too surprising. Take a trip to any zoo and watch children watching animals. Gazing at a lion lazing in its enclosure, a restless child will become still; watching a piranha swim in quick, hungry circles around an aquarium tank, a talkative child will become silent — or make a pertinent remark ("Is that a bone in there?").

These days most children know what even the most exotic animals look like, now that the wildlife documentary has become a fixture on television. But while watching a televised cheetah bring down an antelope on the African plains is exciting, nothing compares to seeing a cheetah or antelope in the flesh. At a zoo you can be close enough to really see an animal, close enough to smell — and make your own observations. And, as young Alice says, sometimes that can be so exciting it's scary.

But Alice, who is in Year One at Woodend Primary School in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, is an old hand at zoos; her great-grandmother gave her a year's membership to Whipsnade Zoo when she was tiny and she has been visiting ever since. Her grandmother, Maren, says that Alice has always been a keen photographer. "She's always borrowing our camera."

Alice's tiger picture was taken with a Nikon Zoom-300. "The tigers were in the pool because it was hot," she says. "There were lots of monkeys, too, and they would bang on the car. But the tiger just sat there looking at me. He was very big." Now Alice won't have to sneak off with her grandmother's camera; she has won her own Fujifilm DL95 — plus a Lifewatch membership to London Zoo.

Katherine Fannon, eight, from Bristol, our winner in the eight to ten-year-old category, will also be able to take a DL95 on future visits

Continued on page 3, col 1

FOOD.....2 GARDENING.....45 PETS.....6 PROPERTY.....8,11 SHOPPING.....13 BOOKS.....14,15 GOING OUT.....16,17 TRAVEL.....19-25 GAMES.....27

# Cliff Crofts of the Orange

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The Lloyd George diet proves it is not a political fire in the belly that makes a great statesman, rather it is what he puts on his plate

## Could you stomach a man of jelly?

I swear that Lloyd George was never acquainted with any of my family, and certainly not my father. Nevertheless, I can let you in on one of the best-kept secrets of early 20th-century political history by revealing precisely what it was that David Lloyd George enjoyed most of all for his tea.

And what place might this crumb of information have in the history of politics? Possibly, it is more significant than historians have hitherto appreciated, and could provide a clue to gaining true political status. My theory, which will be proved when we closely examine Lloyd George's diet, is that it is not a political fire in the belly that makes a great statesman, rather it is what he chooses to put on his plate.

That is why Bill Clinton will slip into the dusty forgotten footnotes of history while Chancellor Kohl will command times as weighty as himself. President Clinton, you see, recently revealed his favourite dish which, it appears, consists of bacon, served with chocolate, jam and cream. It is a slimy, confused mixture of flavours and textures and, in the long

run, not much good for you. Would you vote for such a man? Enough said. If Bill Clinton had been a buffalo-eating, tincture-spitting president we might have believed that the grin on his face was one of confidence, not queasiness in the pit of his cream-filled stomach.

Chancellor Kohl, on the other hand, famously declared before entering into a negotiation: "Let the speeches be short and the sausages be long." That's my boy. Nobody's going to kick sand into his pork-filled face.

At home, things are less certain. We know that John Major's idea of a treat is a wobbly port jelly, from which we might infer any port in a storm, however shaky. I know nothing of what Tony Blair eats, but I deeply suspect him of being a couscous man, with much polenta passing secretly across his dining table, the curtains drawn so that his remaining supporters in the smokestack industries

do not spot that the New Labour leader has replaced HP Sauce with pesto. I know even less about Paddy Ashdown's diet but, when asked what he would like for his tea, I suspect he might ask for "neither flesh nor fowl, but good red herring".

David Lloyd George, on the other hand, fed his greatness on traditional Welsh fodder. I know this from a recently published booklet entitled *Lloyd George's Favourite Recipes*, which was originally compiled by the Cricieth Women's Institute, in which village he was a local hero. Blodwen Evans, who lived in Cricieth, worked for his family for 25 years and it is thanks to her revelations that we now know how



PAUL HEINEY

the great man dined. His favourites included pig's head brawn (always made by Sarah, the housekeeper), potato cake and short-bread, blackberry and apple cheese, cabinet pudding (naturally), steamed Snowdon pudding, grilled herrings and a ground-ice soufflé with caramel sauce ("he adored that"). All this fuelled the furnace of his rhetoric and conviction, and gave us such gems as: "The Right Honourable gentleman has sat so long on

the fence that the iron has entered his soul" and "When they circumscribed Herbert Samuel they threw away the wrong bit." And so to his favourite of all, and one which I hope politicians of all parties will consume heartily with a view

to raising the debating standards in the next general election.

It is a *caen gri* (sorry, I don't know how you pronounce it) done in the only manner in which Lloyd George would eat it — cooked by his first wife, Dame Margaret. The recipe book records that "... he would take a long walk in the afternoon ... often coming home soaked to the skin ... After a few moments he would look at Dame Margaret and say, coaxingly: 'Make me a *caen gri*.' And, of course, she always would."

Feeling statesmanlike already, I went to the larder for the required pound of flour, six ounces of butter, an egg, a few currants, sugar, baking powder and bicarbonate of soda. The measure of bicarbonate of soda is tricky, for the recipe asks for "as much as a sixpenny piece will hold". Try half a teaspoon. You also need some milk.

Rub the butter into the flour quickly (imagine a hungry Lloyd George removing his sudden cape) having added a teaspoon of baking powder and half a teaspoon of bicarb. A generous handful of currants (size dependent on severity of weather) and sugar to taste (ditto). Beat the egg into about half a pint of milk and then beat that mixture into the flour until you have a dough which is stiff enough to roll out into a thin sheet. It is best baked on a greased griddle, but there is nothing better than a little oil rubbed across the cool plate of an Aga. Try a really heavy-bottomed frying pan if not.

The result is a large, speckled, golden bread, halfway between a thick pancake and flat scone. It takes butter when hot like a politician soaks up flattery, but becomes sad when cold.

It will now be a firm favourite in this family. Lloyd George knew what good grub was, and good grub certainly knew Lloyd George.

● Lloyd George's Favourite Recipes can be obtained from John Jones Publishing, Borthwen, Wrexham Road, Ruthin, Clwyd LL15 1DA (01824 707255).

## Set the stage for an interval dinner

### THEATRE PICNIC

Serves four

Roasted vegetable and tapenade rolls  
Goats' cheese and roasted fennel rolls  
Double-chocolate brownies

Mid-week trips to the theatre pose the problem of how you follow the play when your mind and ears are occupied by a rumbling tummy. This theatre picnic can be taken to work and eaten before the play or in the interval.

■ The night before  
Pre-heat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas mark 4.

■ Prepare roasted vegetables  
Cut two red peppers in half and de-seed. Cut the leaves and thin stalks off a bulb of

fennel and cut it downwards into four thick slices. Cut one large beefsteak tomato (or three medium tomatoes) into thick slices. Peel four shallots. Put all the vegetables in a roasting tin. Season with a salt and pepper and pour over 2tbs olive oil.

■ Make brownies  
Put 140g (5oz) plain flour, 225g (8oz) caster sugar, 2tbs cocoa powder, 100g (4oz) plain chocolate (broken into pieces) and a pinch of baking powder in a food processor bowl. Whiz until the chocolate is broken into chips. Add 100g (4oz) butter, two eggs, 1tsp vanilla essence and 80g (3oz) walnuts or pecan nuts. Whiz until you get a sticky dough. Put into a greased baking tin so the mixture is 2-3cm high.

■ Cook the brownies and vegetables  
Put the brownies and the vegetables in the pre-heated

oven and bake for 40 minutes. Take out the vegetables. When they are cool, take the skin off the red peppers. To check if the brownies are cooked, stick a knife into the mixture and see if it comes away cleanly (bearing in mind that they are going to be slightly sticky in the middle). When they have cooled a little, turn the brownies and cool on a wire rack.

■ Before work  
Cut four white and four brown rolls in half. Trickle a little olive oil on the bread. Fill the brown rolls with a piece of roasted fennel and a slice of goats' cheese. Season with pepper. Spread the bottom of the white rolls with a scraping of tapenade or black olive paste. Fill each roll with half a roasted red pepper, one shallot (cut in half), a slice or two of tomato and a roughly torn basil leaf.

■ Pack up picnic  
Put the rolls into four sandwich bags, one brown and one white roll in each. Cut the brownies into pieces and put four pieces in a plastic bag. Put the rest in an airtight container and serve with ice-cream as a pudding (or eat them during the day whenever you need a sugar rush).

■ Serving  
I have never had any trouble with my picnics, but I imagine theatre managements generally prefer you to eat ice-cream or sandwiches, so find a discreet spot (and not in the auditorium). I occasionally take a bottle of wine to the theatre, which means you avoid the crush at the bar.

HATTIE ELLIS

### Shopping list

Fruit and vegetables:  
2 red peppers  
1 bulb fennel  
1 beefsteak or 3 medium tomatoes  
4 shallots  
4 basil leaves

Dairy  
100g (4oz) butter  
200g (7oz) goats' cheese

Savoury goods  
4 brown rolls  
4 white rolls  
olive oil  
140g (5oz) plain white flour

2 eggs  
pinch baking powder  
1tsp tapenade/black olive paste

Sweet goods  
225g (8oz) caster sugar  
2tbs cocoa powder  
100g (4oz) plain chocolate  
1tsp vanilla essence  
80g (3oz) walnuts or pecan nuts

Drink  
1 bottle white wine or drinks from the theatre bar



Despite new fillings, sales of quiche have remained static since the 1970s when it was claimed that you wouldn't catch real men eating it

## Manly flan

£2 million in 1990 to £36 million last year can't solely be accounted for by women. According to Caroline Jeremy, marketing director of the New Covent Garden Soup Company, there has been a sea-change in the past three years. "A number of our soups are designed to be served cold but we knew people were secretly heating them up because



FIONA BECKETT

DIGEST

they'd write to us and complain they were too thin. But a couple of hot summers seems to have made people willing to experiment more."

Men are perfectly prepared to eat soup, Ms Jeremy tells me, as long as they're not too smooth and bland (the soups, that is, not the chaps). The company has had great success with its gazpacho (though I'd personally be inclined to add a spot more garlic). The lemongrass and coriander is also good. Both are widely available for £1.09.

### Game preserve

SO BLASE are we these days about being able to get ingredients from all over the globe that it's rare to find something genuinely new and exotic. But the Old Cape Farm Stall range of jams and pickles from South Africa is exactly that. What makes them so different is not only that many of the fruit and vegetables they use are unfamiliar but that they use whole fruit which gives the jams a wonderfully chunky texture. They also resist the temptation to overdo the sugar so you get the benefit of the pure fruit flavour. Among the ones I've tasted I particularly

liked the kumquat preserve which tastes like the best kind of homemade bitter orange marmalade, the Cape gooseberry jam, and the guava jam, which is so delicious you could eat it by the spoonful (which I'm ashamed to say I did). And the End of the Garden pickle, which contains great chunks of cabbage, beans and green tomatoes, knocks spots off any shop-bought pickallil.

The snag (there has, of course, to be one) is that they're expensive at £4.50 for a 450g jar or £2.30 for 150g, which won't last you a minute but does at least give you a chance to decide which flavour you like best. You can buy them from Fortnum & Mason in London from the end of this month or ring 0171-381 9471 for details of other stockists and mail order.

Only when it was served up did I realise that I had no way of knowing if the frothy cream and fruit concoction was authentic or not. Although knickerbocker glory was part of the mythology of my childhood, I never actually sampled one.

The whole Simpson's experience was in fact slightly surreal, although the staff were young and relentlessly chirpy. As each course of the Bunteresque menu appeared, the waitress said: "Once more into the breach then!"

In fact, it's possible that the staff in the kitchen were all jobbing actors, which might explain one or two eccentricities on the menu like the crumpets being served unbuttered and the doorstep cucumber sandwiches.

On the other hand, the Welsh rabbit, bread pudding and eclairs were hard to fault and the "servants' tea" was the best cuppa I'd had in ages.

If you want to go somewhere where no one knows the meaning of low-fat cuisine, tea is served from 3pm to 5pm, Monday to Saturday, and costs £10.50 (the rabbit and knickerbocker glory are, alas, extra). Ring 0171-636 9112.

### Glory days

IT'S RARE these days to see that great 1950s classic the knickerbocker glory, so news that it was featuring on a new afternoon tea menu at Simpson's sent me off hotfoot to the Strand in central London.

WHY BUY "ethical chocolate"? Well, let's just say that some chocolate is produced in ways that reward the growers of the cocoa beans fairly for their efforts, while other chocolate manufacturers seem uncaring about the welfare of the labourers. The price of cocoa beans has actually gone down in recent years, and crops are not reliable. Cocoa can be grown only in tropical areas and is labour-intensive. Large manufacturers can — and do — control the prices they pay, and have been known to renege on agreements, leaving growers in dire straits.

Organisations such as Traidcraft, set up in 1979, and Green & Black's, part of Whole Earth Foods, pledge to deal fairly with producers, guaranteeing prices and paying in advance, as well as insisting on organic cultivation. There are no pesticides, such as those believed to have produced birth deformities among women cocoa workers in some Brazilian plantations, and the beans are grown alongside subsistence crops beneath the canopy of the rainforests, not in cleared areas. The chocolate itself is produced in Europe, in small factories in Switzerland, France or England.

Of the plain chocolate brands I tasted last week, Green & Black's Maya Gold and

### Size matters

IF YOU are a knickerbocker glory fan, you may well like the sound of Fatty Towers in Margate, a hotel owned by 24-stone pop star Buster Bloodvessel, the lead singer of Bad Manners. Mr Bloodvessel, as he likes to be known, was fed up with the namby-pamby helpings offered by most restaurants and hotel dining rooms and is offering a menu of gargantuan proportions. Specials include Cardiac Arrest (a giant toad-in-the-hole containing four 8oz sausages), Buster's Battered Fish and Chips (16oz of salmon fillet in batter) and UXB Kiev (20oz of chicken breast stuffed with garlic butter).

Surprisingly, the enterprise is not going too well. "People think they can only come here if they're fat," says Mr Bloodvessel. If you're prepared to brave it, dinner is served from Thursday to Sunday, with lunch on weekends. Book on 01843 296200.

More food and drink in the Magazine  
Le Crouzet offer, page 11

Glory days

Chocolate Box

Organic Dark (both with 70 per cent cocoa solids) stood out, although Fairtrade's Mascau Plain (60 per cent) was not far behind. These are rich, dark chocolates, not as bitter as, say, the equivalent Lindt or Nestlé and, in the case of the Maya Gold, flavoured with spices and orange. Green & Black's Organic Mini (70 per cent), also dark, has a terrific mint filling. Of the milk chocolates, Green & Black's (34 per cent) and Mascau (52 per cent) were preferred to Traidcraft's Companion bars (32 per cent), flavoured with honey or mocha, or the Mascau with nuts or orange. All seemed very sweet after the plain chocolate, but the sugar is also produced "ethically".

### TONY PATRICK

● Stockists: Green & Black's can be found in major supermarkets and health-food shops. £1.35-£1.85 for 100g, 30p for 20g. Contact PO Box 1937, London W11 1ZU (0171-255 0882) for more information and a recipe leaflet. ● Fairtrade's Mascau bars are £1.30-£1.50 for 100g, and Companion bars £1.30-£1.50 for 100g. They can be found in charity shops and many independent retailers, but not in supermarkets. Contact Traidcraft, Kingsway North, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE11 0NE (0191-491 0591).

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## INSIDE STORY

3



Trunk call: by runner-up Mandy Elizabeth Jones, aged six, of Wrexham, Clwyd

**'Zoos are no longer places just to go and gawp; now they work hard to help conserve animals'**

Continued from page 1

to the zoo: the judges were delighted by the remarkable quality of her photograph of an elephant with its trunk artfully curled.

Alex Ballantine, 13, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, the winner of our 11-13 category, sent in a picture in which the the marvelous arc of feathers displayed by a peacock completely filled the print. It was taken, with his grandmother's Nikon (clearly grandmothers play a vital role in the careers of budding photographers), at the Conisford Wildlife Park, near Burford, Oxfordshire, where the peacocks roam freely in the grounds.

"We heard the peacocks calling for a while," says Alex, who has been a keen photographer since a visit with his school to Blenheim Palace in 1993. "and then one just came out and was literally standing next to us."

Alex wins a Fujifilm DL-270 Zoom camera.

What makes a good animal photograph? When we launched the competition, Ray Charter, keeper in charge of the lion terraces at London Zoo, and a photographer himself — it is his work that often appears on the zoo's postcards and posters — advised prospective photographers to look for something different: an unusual angle or a close-up.

Michael Lyster, the zoo's official photographer, suggested a visit at feeding time.

Andrew Lawrence, 13, whose close-up shot of an elephant's eye was a runner-up, was experimenting with



The eyes have it: Alex Ballantine, 13, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, and (above) the winning picture he took of a peacock's display

an old manual camera when he took the shot. He admits that it was lucky: "I was probably trying to take a better shot from a distance and lost focus," he says.

Another of our young runners-up, Mandy Elizabeth Jones, six, who lives with her parents Beverly and David at Wrexham, Clwyd, caught an elephant at Chester Zoo reaching for a snack of grass (see picture top left).

She had been paying close attention to the elephants, because of all the animals they are her favourites. She had tried to get a picture of Chester's new baby elephant but wasn't tall enough to see anything but the bars of the enclosure. She got over that by sitting on her father's shoulders.

It wasn't only *The Times* judges who were impressed with the quality of the pictures. So, too, was the Children's Committee of London Zoo, a 16-strong group of children aged eight to 14, chosen each year in a national competition. Since the project started three years ago, the committee,

which visits the zoo five or six times a year, has given its counsel on a wide variety of the zoo's campaigns, including the design of the new children's zoo and the zoo's advertising promotions. It has also helped to carry out questionnaires on such topics as animal "adoption" (if John Major were to adopt an animal, said one question, what should it be? A grey muller was a common answer).

The committee visited *The Times* and offered its opinions of what made the strongest animal pictures. "They should have a really funny expression on their faces," said Toby Hyde, 11, who liked Dominic Cook's photograph of a madly grinning llama. "The animals should also be doing what they're doing in the wild."

Sarah Hamilton, 11, agreed, pointing to Emma Rosenfield's picture of a giraffe, its head appearing crowned with a ring of leaves. "You couldn't tell that was in a zoo," she said.

To David Driver, and to all our judges, that was an important point: "The main problem in taking zoo pictures is the zoo context. In the wild there are no bars, pits or islands of

confinement, though in the wild or on safari you can't get as close to the animals."

One of the reasons he liked Mandy's elephant photo was the good use it made of the zoo environment. "It couldn't have been anywhere but in a zoo," he says, "but the way the elephant was behaving made it special."

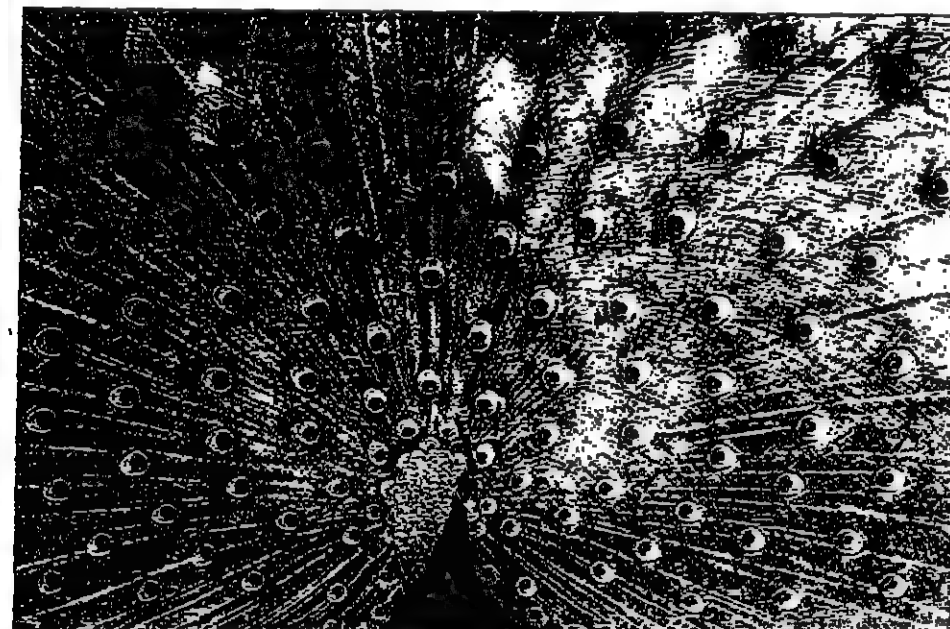
The same could be said for James Birch's picture of a peckish orangutan taken at Chester Zoo (see below). James, seven, a pupil at Cassobury Infants School at Watford, Hertfordshire, took his picture with an Olympus NJU. "There was a sign saying don't give food to the orangutan," he says. "But it wanted food so it put its hand out. We were eating ice-creams, but we didn't give it any."

Ian Redmond, a wildlife biologist, photographer and author of two *Dorling Kindersley Eyewitness* guides, *Elephants* and *Gorilla*, believes that children have much to gain from practising their photographic skills at a zoo.

"With a still photograph you have a chance to look at something without the distraction of movement. My own children take pictures at the zoo, and they'll be able to point out on the picture whatever



Cool cat: a winning shot taken by Alice Mauder, aged six, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire. "Seeing the tiger was exciting, but scary, too," she says



eries to centres of conservation. Pierre Hyde, seven, from Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, whose sleeping leopard, photographed at Marwell Zoo, was another strong contender, loves zoos, but admits that he does "feel a bit sorry for the animals when they are in cages".

Sadly, there is less and less land for wild animals to roam in. Colin Tudge, a zoologist and author of *The Day Before Yesterday* and *The Last Animals at the Zoo*, says that maintaining a viable population of tigers in the wild requires an area the size of Yorkshire — and it seems that Asia, where the tigers live, cannot spare that kind of space. So zoos and safari parks not only give children practically their only chance to have a "close encounter" with wild animals, they may well provide the only future for the animals themselves, protecting them from the encroaching human population and the dangers of hunters and poachers. (Last week 11 Barbary lions, believed extinct since the

1920s, were "rediscovered" at a zoo in Ethiopia).

Peter Olney says that children are the conservationists of the future. "Zoos are like enormous reserves, where animals are ambassadors for their relatives in the wild. They're no longer places just to go and gawp; now they do important conservation work. That's what we want all zoo visitors to realise, but children particularly."

David Driver noted one quality that stood out in all the pictures: "An affection for animals... all the photographs showed their warm, appealing aspects. It is this love of animals that will keep children — and the adults they will become — caring for the zoo of the present and future and supporting them in their work. Even if that means staring down the occasional tiger."

Additional research by Caroline Griffiths. All those who entered the competition will receive their Fujifilm QuickSnap camera within 14 days.

Zoo offer, page 18

## OPEN LETTER TO A CARING COMMUNITY

There seems to be so much avoidable suffering in the world. We appeal for your support to reduce avoidable suffering.

We aim to raise funds to advance scientific research into pre-natal and post-natal experience. This research is needed to identify areas of harm or benefit to unborn and premature babies, including above all the question of pain and its alleviation.

This information becomes increasingly relevant as medical ability to operate advances, invasive surgical techniques in the womb including termination (20,000 fetuses are terminated annually in the UK after 13 weeks). His saving about insertions (where fluid is drained from the baby), blood transfusions, keyhole surgery (where the baby is operated on whilst still in the womb) and routine tests such as amniocentesis are all currently performed with no pain relief for the pre-born.

It was discovered ten years ago that premature babies who need surgery also need anaesthetics. The survival rate was found to increase dramatically when deep anaesthesia was administered. Further research is now needed to enable doctors to provide improved control of suffering.

The right to be free from pain is being established. This right should apply equally to avoidable human suffering. A recent report by a research specialist in the *Lancet* adds to the evidence of pre-natal distress and recommends anaesthetics to alleviate it.

All can unite with our appeal for the new-born and pre-born to be protected from pain. But research is needed to determine HOW pain relief can be provided. We aim to raise funds for the few research centres working to achieve this.

We also call for increased research into pre-natal influences and their long term consequences. This is urgently required. More information is needed on measures which help to build healthy babies. Research is equally needed to identify influences in the pre-natal environment which may cause illness later on in life.

Will you support our work for these and other priorities which will ensure Women and Children's welfare?

A public fund-raising appeal has been launched. It is endorsed by community leaders. The following are already Co-Convenors:

Joan Asker, Joan Belcher, Floella Benjamin, Charlotte Black, Dr A Booth, Dr B J Collett, Shirley Connor, Margaret Cooper OBE, The Baroness Cox, Tessa Dahl, Audrey Eaton, The Baroness Fletcher, Dr A W Frankland, Lynne Franklin, Joyce Hopfirk, Barbara Hosking OBE, Joanna Linsley, Jane Mendola, Revd Canon W B Norman, Sara Parke, Betty Parsons MBE, Dr J Paterson Brown CBE, Sir John Peel KCVO FRCOG, Sybil Phoenix MBE, Sir George Fisher KCVO FRCOG, Rosalind Preston OBE, Carol Reay, Jennifer Saunders, Patricia Scotland QC, Countess of St Andrews, The Very Rev. Prof. T Torrance FRSE, Dorothy Tulin CBE.

Women and Children's Welfare Fund Trustees: Hugh van Cutsem, Lady Lottman, The Earl of Perth, The Marchioness of Salisbury.

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## THE SECRETS OF TAKING A WINNING PICTURE



Above: the curling trunk made Katherine Fannon, of Bristol, a winner. Right: the begging orangutan by James Birch

THE MOST striking thing about the photographs entered in our competition is the high quality of exposure and definition. This is possible through the new generation of fully automatic cameras, where film choice, exposure and often focusing can be left to the camera. This automation leaves the photographer free to be as creative in choice of subject and composition as the imagination will allow.

Zoos and safari parks offer photographers wonderful opportunities to observe animals, and many of our young entrants have shown patience in capturing

the right moment to press the button. What sets apart a competent picture from a very good picture can be simplified to three golden rules:

REMEMBER that a camera is an extension of your eyes. What you see in the viewfinder is what you will see on the print. Before you press the shutter button be sure you that have composed the picture to its best advantage.

TAKE lots of pictures. Have a spare roll of film handy. Always be aware of when your last frame is coming up, because there is always a better picture

just around the corner — and it is often missed because you have reached the end of your roll.

DO NOT be afraid to ask your subject to move into a different position. Always be prepared to change your position in relation to the subject, be it a landscape, a group of people or an animal. You may get a better angle by moving closer, above, or below. And take advantage of the light.

GRAHAM WOOD

The author is a photographer and picture editor of *The Times* Magazine.



# Tribute to a nation's flora

Work has begun on the only new botanic garden in Britain this century

The opening date for the new National Botanic Garden for Wales is May 26, 2000. The reason for such long-range confidence is a £21 million grant from the Millennium fund announced earlier this year.

Before that, a small band of dedicated volunteers had put six years' unpaid work into planning and preparation. "It astonished me that the project remained alive through the recession of the early Nineties," says William Wilkins, the acting project director.

The national showpiece will double as a visitor attraction and centre of scientific research. It will be the first large-scale botanic garden to be built in Britain this century and will concentrate on preserving the endangered flora of Wales and the European seaboard.

Its home will be the 560-acre site of Middleton Hall Estate, a property once owned by Sir William Paxton, former master of the Calcutta Mint and agent for the East India Company. A property developer and man of vision, Paxton was responsible for many innovative projects, including the creation of Tenby as a seaside spa, and the supplying of running water to Carmarthen town, seven miles to the west.

His vision for Middleton was of a distinguished garden in the late 18th-century manner, through which water would run as a natural thread. Its design is believed to have been the work of William Emes (1730-1803) an admirer of Capability Brown.

Built in 1776, the original hall was said to have been the finest modern house in the south of Wales. This burnt down in 1931 and the park was dismembered into numerous small-holdings. Fortunately, the recent discovery of two watercolours of Middleton by Thomas Horner means that planners have an accurate impression of how the gardens looked in their heyday.

According to Mr Wilkins, a professional painter with a lifelong interest in landscape, two thrilling features that set this place apart are its fine aesthetic statement about the relationship between man and nature based on 18th-century thinking, and the central role of water in the site.

Six lakes at different levels were linked by cascades and falls. No artifice was spared to ensure an entirely natural effect. The bed of the river beneath one particularly beautiful bridge, for instance, was paved to provide a smooth flow of water that ensured onlookers a perfect reflection of the arch above.

In addition to its lakes, Middleton Hall boasted rock gardens, orchards and a unique, five-acre double-walled garden in which, according to one visiting botanist, you could grow anything. Many varieties of plants that have been bred in Wales at Khyne, Bodnant and Powis Castle will be brought together here, Mr Wilkins says. These include magnolias and



An artist's impression of the inside of the domed glasshouse planned for the National Botanic Garden for Wales at Middleton Hall, Carmarthenshire



The original Middleton Hall estate as envisaged by Sir William Paxton and (right) how Wales's national garden will look when it opens in 2000

many rhododendrons developed by Lord Aberconway, *Viburnum bodnantense*, *Artemisia 'Powis Castle'* and *Cupressus leylandii*.

Five of the original lakes are now no more than reedy hollows in the landscape but many natural features, including indigenous woodlands, banks of bluebells, numerous ferns, mosses and fungi, survive.

Standing on the elevated site of the manor drawing room, Mr Wilkins indicated the main outline of the new project. At the heart of the complex will be a domed glasshouse, designed by Sir Norman Foster and Partners,

which will accommodate five different climate and soil zones. Descending from the glasshouse to an upper lake will be a series of terraces intersected by five waterfalls and on the hillside opposite an arboretum, to be called "Woods of the World", will contain complete woodland habitats of four continents.

Two novelties that would doubtless have appealed to Paxton, the innovator, will be the bioscope, a state-of-the-art audiovisual introduction to the garden and botany, and the bioverse, a hands-on science centre for children and adults.

During its construction the garden will provide work for 244, and 120 permanent jobs will be created. Parts of Middleton could be opened as early as May 1998.

Despite its apparently remote location the estate is within 300 yards of the busy M4, although a substantial hill shields it from the sight and sound of traffic.

The Middleton Hall project, which has the backing of the local authorities, the Welsh Development Agency and the Wales Tourist Board, should prove a focal point for visitors to the area, particularly keen gardeners.

"We are going to trigger a renaissance of interest in all the gardens of Wales," Mr Wilkins says.

## ALAN ROAD

● **Middleton Botanic Garden**, Carreg Cennan, Llandello, Carmarthenshire SA19 6TL (01553 665748).

● **Leading botanic gardens:** Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, west London (0181 332 3200); Belfast Botanic Gardens (01232 324522); Cambridge University Botanic Gardens (01223 336265); Edinburgh Botanic Gardens (0131 522171); University Botanic Gardens, Oxford (01865 242737).

## GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

**Q** For the past three years my mature pear tree has been affected by maggots. To minimise the spread I have picked from the tree about 1,500 deformed fruitlets and collected more from the soil. There are now only two or three dozen left unaffected on the tree. What should I do to prevent repetition? Before this the tree was laden with excellent fruits. — L. Clajkowski, Stanmore, Middlesex.

**A** Your problem is a gall midge, specific to pears, which lays its eggs in the flowers during March or April. Dozens of minute, white larvae develop in the distorted fruitlets, which blacken and fall, usually in May or June. When the fruits fall, the mature larvae crawl into the soil where they remain until emerging as adult midges the following spring. Treatment is to collect and burn all affected fruitlets. Cultivate the soil lightly beneath the tree and treat it with an insecticidal dust, such as HCH, in spring. The spraying of a large tree with insecticide, just as the buds are about to burst, is possible but not easy. Early or late-flowering pears manage better to evade the midge's unwanted attentions.

**Q** Can you please identify the enclosed leaf and flower of a perennial which grows 4ft-5ft high? — G.A. Hanson, Wigan, Lancashire.

**A** I wish I could, but by the time the leaf got to me it was a streak of brown mush. Please try again. The best way to send a sample through the post is as dry as possible and sealed in a clean plastic bag. Mark the envelope "plant material — URGENT". I hope next time I can help.

**Q** We wish to plant two or three rhododendrons to hide a compost heap. Ideally we would like a clump 5ft-7ft high and 15ft across when fully grown. Our soil is clay and the shrubs would be in the shade from a large ash tree. Early flowering would be preferred. — Mrs P. Rudling, Stafford.

**A** The earliest rhododendrons are species not so easy to grow in impoverished conditions. The easier hybrids flower from May through June. Is that early enough? Acid or neutral clay is acceptable if you build up a foot of good, open-textured soil above the clay and plant into that. I would plant three 'Cunningham's White', an old variety with a pinkish bud, which starts off the hybrid season in early May. In old age it will be taller than 7ft. I would go for a variety that covers the compost heap quickly and can be cut later, rather than a slow grower.

**Q** Last year I planted a Clematis called 'Aurea' in an old apple tree. Can you tell me when it flowers and what colour it will be? — J. Ferguson, Rainham, Essex.

**A** Search me, Mr Ferguson. It does not appear in *The Plant Finder*, or any other literature I have on clematis. Could it be 'Andrew', a summer-flowering bluish-violet six footer, bred in 1952?

● Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: *Garden Answers*, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9DN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

## WEEKEND TIPS

- Divide clumps of autumn-flowering colchicum bulbs before flower growth is induced by autumn rain. Single bulbs will soon build up again into clumps.
- Cuttings of pinks may be taken now, using 3in long shoots around a pot of sandy compost.
- Regal pelargoniums may be rested for a few weeks with little water before starting into growth again.
- Liquid feed cucumbers, tomatoes and courgettes regularly.
- Shorten side shoots on plums; earth up and stake Brussels sprouts in windy gardens; and spray potatoes.

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VICTORIA TRAVEL, the gardening cruise specialist, has arranged a special package for *Times* readers, departing from Dover on the *Black Prince* on Wednesday, November 20, 1996. The *Times* party on the 13-night cruise to Madeira and the Canaries will be led by Stephen Anderton, the gardening correspondent of *The Times*.

For bookings made by September 1, prices start at £649 per person for a three-berth cabin, £899 per person for a two-berth cabin and £899 per person for a four-berth family cabin. Port charges, insurance, drinks and gratuities are extra. There are excellent restaurant, leisure and entertainment facilities on board the *Black Prince* which can carry 440 passengers.

Second-class return rail travel to Dover is free from any UK station. Readers in Ireland can enjoy free flights from Belfast and Dublin. For car drivers, there is free parking at Dover. Victoria Travel can arrange subsidised overnight hotel rates. Each passenger receives a free travel bag.

You don't have to be a keen gardener to enjoy this sun-kissed voyage which includes visits to Lisbon, Gibraltar and Tenerife. One of the highlights of the cruise will be the time spent on the wonderful island of Madeira. For the first 80 passengers to book with *The Times*, this will include a visit to the famous Reid's Hotel for afternoon tea and a tour of the garden.

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Bosvigo House, Truro, Cornwall (01872 75774)

Bosvigo Lane, from A390 turn into Dobbs Lane at Hightown. Open 11am-6pm. £2, children 50p.

Cornwall's gardens are renowned for their spring and early-summer displays, but few come to their best in high-summer. Bosvigo House is one that does and offers holiday-makers in Cornwall not only an enlightening garden to visit but an array of unusual plants to buy and take home. Around the 18th-century house the Perrys have, during the last 15 years, planted and designed in a style both controlled and yet adventurous. This is exemplified in the hot garden, which lies enclosed by mixed hedges on the edge of the one-acre woodland. Brilliant shades of red, orange and yellow flowers: dahlias and alstroemerias interplanted with roses in shades of red and purple are ingeniously matched with an array of purple foliage ranging from beech to beetroots.

Whether following the woodland walk or admiring the smaller-scale enclosures and walled garden, visitors can appreciate that the attention to detail in plant combinations is exemplary. Unusual pelargoniums are a speciality but the nursery is packed with a variety of delights.

Stone House Cottage, Stone, Kidderminster, Worcestershire (01562 69902)

In Stone, two miles south of Kidderminster on A448. Open Mar-Sept, Wed-Sat, and Aug 25 and 26, 10am-5.30pm. £2, children free.

There is a select group of gardens that I would visit every year for the combination of enjoyment and education they provide. Stone House Cottage is unquestionably one of them. As you approach, a



The Palladian bridge at the newly restored Prior Park in Avon, with Bath behind

## Gardens to visit this weekend

glimpse of the San-Gimini-like brick towers appears. They are the work of James Arbuthnot whose building skills, evident in the garden's selection of follies, complement his wife's horticultural ones. Before entering the garden through a delightful brick gatehouse you are tempted to stray immediately one side, to the rows of plants in the nursery. But these are best left until later, when you have had the chance to admire many of them growing against the brick walls or in the borders of the garden. From ornamental trees planted in groups where the grass is left rough-mown to tiny alpine in a pattern of raised beds in front of the house, there is a glowing healthiness among the plants, many of which are rare. Given the range and quantity of plants, it would be misleading to suggest specialities, but the combinations of wall-plants and climbers are especially striking — and at

most times of the flowering year. Right now, clematis 'Etoile Rose' growing through Pittosporum 'Abbotsbury Gold' and the pale-yellow flower 'Rose Leuvenhaken' with the pale-blue flowered species *Clematis viticella* and *Clematis rhoderiana*, whose yellow flowers smell of cowslips, clambering together is a small selection of the treats on offer to visitors.

Prior Park, Bath, Avon (01985 843600)

In Bath, entrance on Ralph Allen Drive, via public transport from city centre, no parking at garden. Open daily from July 18, except Tues, noon-5.30pm (dusk if earlier). £3.80, children £1.90.

There could be no better setting for a quintessential English landscape garden than the Georgian city of Bath, and Prior Park is one of England's most significant

products of the 18th-century landscape movement. In 1993, the garden was given to the National Trust and this weekend sees it open after a programme of repair and restoration costing £500,000 and confirming the trust's ability to carry out such work. Being only 28 acres, it is in some ways a microcosm of the qualities that distinguished the 18th-century garden, but the qualities are all there none the less. The garden was created by a combination of the period's most distinguished cultural and gardening figures: Ralph Allen, entrepreneur, philanthropist and Prior Park's owner and for whom the Bath architect, John Wood, built the Palladian mansion; Allen's friend and informal adviser, Alexander Pope, and Capability Brown, who landscaped the garden. The view is dominated by the most important of Prior Park's garden buildings, the Palladian

an bridge. It is one of only three in the country and sited for utmost effect. The bridge crosses one of the series of three lakes around which the landscape of woodland and sweeping grass slopes was designed. New rebuilt paths lead through the wilderness and other areas where visitors can admire Prior Park's other architectural ornaments.

Hilton Court, Roch, Haverfordwest, Dyfed (01437 710262)

A487 St David's Road from Haverfordwest, three-quarters of a mile beyond Stimpson's Cross sign to Hilton Court. Open daily Mar-Oct, 10am-6pm; Nov-Feb weekends only. Free (voluntary donation to charity).

Any gardening enthusiast holidaying on the Pembrokeshire coast in west Wales should visit Hilton Court. They should also remember to leave space in their car for the plants they will inevitably buy in the nursery that overlooks the garden. The site is old, with an 18th-century house, but the garden is substantially as created by the present owners during the last seven years. The most impressive feature is the view across the garden and series of interlinking lakes that have been created from the existing stream. At this time of year the garden has a spectacular display of water lilies and other aquatic plants, in particular enormous gunners. Among a wide range of flowering trees and shrubs the foliage of paulownia, persea and a purple-leaved catalpa are impressive from now through to late-summer when they will flower. In the nursery, as well as the aquatics, an intriguing speciality are plants resistant to wind and spray, suitable for seaside gardening.

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# Irrigation for dry humour in Sussex

Julian Treyer Evans creates a piece of whimsy from a three-acre field for Anita Roddick and husband, Gordon

Anita Roddick's one and only request was that her garden should have "a sense of humour". Tricky. Hilarious hostas? Witty wisteria? Funny phlox? Plant names may be odd but the plants are never funny, so to follow her wishes, the humour had to come from the ornament: jumping goldfish; anticlockwise sun dials; Humpty Dumpty sitting on a ha-ha; and, over the boundary wall, some fibreglass, BSE-free cattle in a next-door field.

The trouble is that the amusing can pall and become irritating. It was important, therefore, to design a garden that would survive the funny side and that depends on good planting.

Twelve years ago the Roddicks' garden was just a three-acre field that sloped down towards their house. The plan was to create a series of steps, levels, and "rooms" which would culminate at the top of the garden in a heart-stopping view across the Sussex landscape.

To screen one area off from the next, walls were built and hedges were planted. When completed, the walls looked horribly stark. The hedging plants — yew, beech and box — looked small and rather pathetic. As they also have a reputation for growing slowly, there was a hint of panic in the air. It was obvious that the plants needed encouragement, and the best way of doing this was to install an irrigation system.

The plants benefited immediately from a supply of water, which was delivered not only regularly, but directly towards their roots. Wastage and evaporation were

minimal. Evaporation was further reduced because the system was programmed to come on at night.

The nutrients that had been applied to the soil in granular form, to give the plants a further boost, were guaranteed to be washed in. Before the installation of the system, plants had been watered when they were seen to be wilting, which can do more harm than good — it sends plants into shock. An automatic irrigation system never gives a plant the chance to wilt.

Hosepipe bans can be overcome by having your own supply, whether a water storage tank or bore hole. The size of the water storage area required can be worked out by calculating the square metreage and multiplying it by three for lawns, four for borders, and eight for trees. The answer comes out in litres per day. A hundred square metres of lawn therefore needs 300 litres a day to water it properly.

To complement an automatic irrigation system, piles of compost were added to the soil, and Scotty, the Roddicks' redoubtable gardener, carried out a well-organised organic foliar feeding programme.

The upshot was that the garden grew in record time. The walls were soon hidden, and the yew hedges defied the doubters by leaping up a foot a year. They grew so quickly that the grass paths beside them grew scraggy in the shade, and in some areas had to be replaced with paving stones. Even the box and beech hedges, which were cut back hard in spring and foliar-fed with a water and manure potion twice a year, grew encouragingly well. Everything seemed wonderful.



The tapir, boy and apple core are all part of Anita Roddick's desire for a humorous garden. But the amusing can pall, so good planting was necessary for the garden to survive



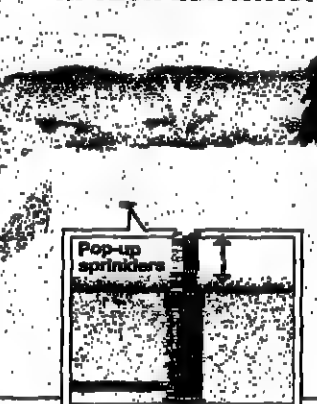
But, inch by inch, the structural shrubs began to elbow their way to the front of the borders, squashing the light and restricting the space of the "choicer" plants. The garden developed a heavy look. There was less interest: the variety had gone.

After eight years of rumbustious growth it was time to change. The strongest growers — the leafy leaved elaeagnus with an insignificant but scented flower, the summer-flowering, shiny leaved escallonia, and the winter-flowering viburnum — were removed without ceremony. Others — including the golden privets and the aucubas, even though they were nearly 6ft tall — were dug up, pruned and replanted in more appropriate positions. Some shrubs, such as the 7ft-high mahonia 'Charity', and the winter-flowering Sarcoecia hookeriana digyna, were cut back hard. A new less-menacing structure of plants was established, and into the gaps perennials were planted.

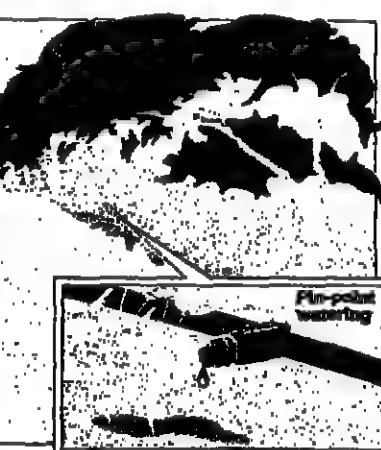


which brought back the panache, the variety and the sparkle. Eventually only one part of the garden remained unplanted and unaffected by the irrigation system: the top field. Anita suggested planting wild flowers. We planned

## HI-TECH IRRIGATION



to keep the planting simple, and to have broad interlocking shapes of single colours. We chose field poppies, ox-eye daisies and the blue flax, *Linum perenne*. To prepare for the poppies, the grass was grubbed off and rotovated. Scotty



planted the seed in January, at four grams per square metre, twice the recommended rate, and raked it in. The poppies flourished, producing a huge blood-red gash across the side of the hill. The ox-eye daisies, which were planted as plugs

(young seedlings grown in a pocket of compost) at five per metre, became a billowing sheet of white, but the flax flopped because it was overcome by thistles.

The astonishing speed of growth taught us how important it is to remain flexible. There was no room for sentimentality. Anita and Gordon accept and encourage alterations to keep the garden looking fresh and interesting.

There used to be an orchard, for instance, but as the apples never really "did" it was removed and replaced by a secret garden. Stepping stones used to wind through it, but were replaced with a brick path, because Anita's legs could never quite reach between them. I often wonder if she saw the joke.

For more information about irrigation systems contact a garden centre or ring Gardens UK 01462 45013, Presa Irrigation UK (01235 763 763) or Leaky Pipe Systems/Eco Systems (01623 746 495).

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In the week that dog star Pippin senior died, Pippin junior gives us a behind-the-scenes glimpse at his celebrity home life

# Lights, camera . . . sit up and bark

Anyone with a child of four or five will have heard of Pippin, the star of the BBC's unlikely daytime television hit, *Come Outside*. Pippin, whose grandmother of the same name died last week, is a small dog that acts its hairy socks off each week in search of adventure with her owner, Auntie Mabel, in their multicoloured light aircraft.

Made for BBC School Programmes, the series crept quietly into the schedules a few years ago. But Pippin's enchanting antics soon gained the series a much wider following with entranced home audiences.

As a result, Pippin is now Britain's biggest animal star. She receives sackloads of fan mail from all over the country — often addressed simply to "Pippin, Berkshire". When the dog is spotted in public, she is mobbed by youngsters as bemused parents look on.

Pippin is owned by the veteran animal trainer, Ann Head, of Animalation. "Pippin started training when she was just eight weeks old — and she was a natural," she says. The secret to training dogs, she says, is letting the animal do everything for itself. Touching the dog or pushing down its back is taboo. "Rewards are given only when they do the right thing. Another golden rule is never to have a routine. Show dogs must be able to repeat something time and again, but that doesn't work for performing animals."

One-word commands from Ms Head prompt eager Pippin Jr to trot out the full gamut of animal emotions for her benefit: she smiles, looks hurt, hides her face, sneezes, rolls over, crawls, holds her head perfectly still, picks up spins then drops them into a piggy bank and even barks. "She's always wanted to learn new tricks," Ms Head says. "I'm convinced dogs love being mentally stimulated. Pippin enjoys what she's doing or she wouldn't perform."



Pippin became a children's favourite when she flew off on adventures with Auntie Mabel (Lynda Baron) in their multicoloured aircraft for the BBC's *Come Outside* series

grandmother's shoes several years ago. With a little spray-on hair dye the dog looks identical. Both generations of Pippin defy convention on their antecedence, being of the popular "who knows?" variety. However, we know they

are relatives of the four-legged Hollywood film star Benji, whose films from the 1970s have grossed \$100 million. When Pippin is not training or filming she reverts to being the Head family pet. "She loves all the things a normal

dog loves," Ms Head says. On filming days, Pippin is up at 5am, with a bath followed by meticulous grooming. Talcum powder is brushed into the coat, for an especially silky finish. Although hotels rarely allow guests to bring dogs,

exceptions are invariably made for Pippin, who behaves impeccably and travels with a small, self-contained "kennel", the canine celebrity equivalent of a luxury trailer.

Filming itself is often reduced to hysterics. "We have to find words Pippin won't understand," the director, Elizabeth Bennett, says. "When we start a shot with 'turnover, speed, action', 'speed' sounds like 'speak', so Pippin barks."

"Nor can I say 'action' to the actors because Pippin takes it as her cue to start and runs into shot. Instead it's 'everybody get going'."

The secret of Pippin's winning performances, like those of all working animals, is food. To entice Pippin to perform, Auntie Mabel's costume has a lined, waterproof pocket crammed with sausage rewards. For Lynda Baron, who plays Auntie Mabel, the sausages can also be used to fight filming fatigue.

"Sitting in the cockpit all day when it's hot is hard work," she says. "So when Pippin and I are getting tired, I feed her all the sausages, then claim we've run out so they have to stop and let us out."

"At other times, sausages are hidden behind dustbins or in bushes, although I did once draw the line at Pippin and I performing with a sausage pushed down the toilet. Pippin was fine but I couldn't keep a straight face."

## DOG TRICKS

IF YOU think your dog has what it takes, try teaching it these tricks:

■ **Hide Your Eyes:** placing one or both front paws over its eyes and then peeping out.

■ **Roll-Over:** lying down and rolling all the way over.

■ **Crawl:** nicknamed "the MP". Crawling on its belly until ordered to stop.

■ **Go With:** accompanying an actor as if belonging to them. Looking at the trainer is strictly forbidden.

■ **Speak:** barking on command.

■ **Don't Wag:** the hardest trick of all. No involuntary wagging of the tail. If your dog can do this to order then prepare to go walkies in the Hollywood hills.

Work is now well under way on the third series, which will see Pippin and Auntie Mabel sniffing out how soap is made, in Lancashire, how pencils get their lead, in the Lake District, and how bricks are made, in Leicestershire.

Frank Flynn, the head of commissioning for BBC School Programmes, says of the series: "Children identify with Pippin and Auntie Mabel and, as a result, it's a great way to get them to look at a whole range of environmental issues. It's a winning format and undoubtedly Pippin is the root of its appeal."

It's said that the best performing animals are so highly trained they look as if they've had no training at all. For Ms Head, the apparent spontaneity of Pippin's performance is the reason she is deluged with calls from other dog owners.

"Everyone wants to put their animal on television, but they would be amazed at just how difficult it is," she says.

As well as Pippin, Ms Head also trains or works with many animals appearing in commercials, including Arthur the cat and the Andex puppies. "The puppies have to be exactly eight weeks old," she says. "Every shot is a different puppy because they tire so quickly. And we always use girl pups, unless they are actually sitting down."

"Arthur eats out of the can with his paw because he can't get his head inside. But the cans do have a false bottom hiding a heavy weight to stop it moving around. Arthur only eats that way when he's working — he normally eats from a bowl like any other cat."

**TIM WAPSHOTT**  
Come Outside returns to our screens in September

## Old red legs is back

Feather Report

THE FIRST barley is being cut and clear views are opening up again across the lines of yellow stubble. It is a moment when you may get a sight of a red-legged partridge stalking along by a distant hedge, keeping its head low. Every so often it jerks upright like a jack-in-the-box and looks around. Then it crouches and moves on again.

It is a striking bird, with black and chestnut bars along its flank as if it had been grilled. It also has a white throat fringed with black, and red legs and beak. But when it is walking straight away from you in the corn or grass, all those features are out of sight, and it is not very easy to distinguish from a common, or grey partridge.

Its call is the most distinctive thing about it — a loud, chucking "chukka, chukka", quite different from the creaky notes of the common partridge. It also has a kind of song, a repeated wheezy grunt that has been compared to an old steam-engine at work.

It is not a native bird — it is often called a French partridge — but was introduced in Suffolk in 1790. It is now widespread in the drier eastern counties of England, and is probably about as numerous as the common partridge, taking Britain as a whole.

EVERY YEAR, quite a few young, hand-reared red-legs are released into the country for shooting in the autumn, and some of them survive to breed, but there has been no substantial further colonisation since the end of the 18th century. They are easier to shoot than common partridges, because the coveys scatter more when they fly up ahead of the guns.

Quite recently it has been discovered that the red-leg has bizarre breeding habits. The female lays a clutch of eggs in a nest at the edge of a field, then lays a second clutch in another nest. After that she goes back to incubate her first clutch, while the male settles down on the other one. With such productivity, it is not surprising that the red-leg is holding its own.

## DERWENT MAY

What's about: Birders — watch out for black-headed gulls and common terns in their brown, juvenile plumage. Twitlers — Spanish sparrows at Watcote, Cumbria; white-rumped sandpiper at Brydon Water, Norfolk; green-billed tern at Llanelli, Carmarthenshire. Details from Birdline, 0891 70222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate. 50p at all other times.



The red-legged partridge

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The good times are back for owners of small hotels. Cheryl Taylor on opportunities at home and abroad

# Bed, breakfast and a healthy profit

**I**f running a hotel has ever appealed to you, now might be the time to buy, with prices beginning to edge upwards and the market showing signs of recovery. Despite unpredictable weather so far this summer, the English Tourist Board has forecast a busy season for the domestic holiday trade and hoteliers report that bookings are up on last year.

Other signs also indicate that moving into the hotel field makes good business sense. Hotel profits in the UK rose by 9 per cent in 1995 compared with the previous year, and occupancies reached a ten-year high, according to a report last month by BDO Hospitality Consulting, the hotel, tourism and leisure arm of accountants BDO Stoy Hayward.

The occupancy rate last year was 7.1 per cent up on 1994 and 20 per cent higher than in 1992. Room rates are also up by 5.8 per cent on average — 8.6 per cent in London — with more growth forecast this year.

Hotels are selling well, with agents reporting increased demand in many parts of the country. There is, however, a shortage of quality hotels up to £500,000 in prime locations such as London, Bath, Cheltenham, Harrogate, Edinburgh, the Cotswolds, south Devon and the Lake District, which is pushing up prices.

Hotels in central London are drawing large numbers of prospective purchasers and prices are rising fast. According to the latest European hotel valuation index from Hospitality Valuation Services, the property consultants and valuers, London has seen the highest rise in values of all European cities — 16.8 per cent in 1995 over the previous year — reflecting the high level of demand in the capital.

Small hotels on the fringe of London are also in demand, according to Patrick Ryan of specialist business agent Christie & Co. In Harrow, the 43-bedroom Grimdyke Hotel, in a dilapidated condition with 54 years left on the lease, on offer recently at £750,000, went 10 per cent over the guide price with 20 bidders.

Christie & Co reports a high demand for prime hotels up to £1 million in Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Kent. Chilton Park, a 38-bedroom country house hotel near Maidstone in Kent, attracted six bidders and went 7 per cent over the guide price of £2 million.

Hotel and licensed property specialist Robert Barry and Co has a waiting list of 300 prospective purchasers looking for well-located B&B hotels costing from £250,000 to £400,000 in the Cheltenham area alone.

Alastair Murchie of Robert Barry says that Milton House, an eight-bedroom hotel in



Peter Hoskins outside the Victoria Hotel at Holkham in Norfolk. The lease was granted in exchange for £100,000 to be spent on restoration

Cheltenham which recently sold for more than the guide price of £300,000, attracted 50 prospective purchasers. Erme House, a country hotel with seven bedrooms near Ivybridge in Devon, on the market in January, sold within three weeks for the asking price of £295,000, with three bidders.

In the West Country, Knight Frank's Exeter office reports increased activity in the market for hotels priced at between £500,000 and £750,000. Buyers from abroad, particularly from Hong Kong, are attracted by English country house hotels with up to 12 acres and up to 18 bedrooms.

**E**aston Court, a 15th-century thatched country house hotel with eight bedrooms, near Chagford in Devon, sold within weeks to an Australian family coming into the hotel trade, at 10 per cent more than the guide price of £350,000, through Knight Frank.

Nick Sweeney, of Savills Hotels and Leisure, says that hotels are making better profit margins than in the past, thanks to the buoyant tourist trade and greater efficiency. Banks have become more willing to lend on them, which is stimulating the market.

Patrick Ryan of Christie & Co says there is a growing

## DEVON

**I**N MARCH 1992, John and Tove Taylor bought Buckland-Tout-Saints, a country house hotel in a Grade II listed Queen Anne manor house, in five acres of landscaped gardens near Kingsbridge in south Devon. They paid £750,000 for the three-star hotel with 14 guest bedrooms, two restaurants, a lounge bar, six staff bedrooms and a self-contained owner's flat.

The Taylors, both in their sixties, had owned a country house hotel in Argyleshire — the Taychreggan on the shores of Loch Awe — for 16 years, which they sold in 1989 when they retired to be nearer to their family in Cern Abbas, Dorset. Their retirement lasted for just three years. "We missed everything about hotel life: the work, the worry, the guests and the staff," says Mr Taylor, who could not resist going to see Buckland-Tout-Saints when it was advertised for sale four years ago. Many of their old guests returned

demand from newcomers, typically in their forties or fifties, taking early retirement or redundancy from middle-management careers. "People are far more hard-headed about setting up a hotel business than used to be the case," he says.

In Scotland, too, prime country house hotels are in



Buckland-Tout-Saints in Devon is on the market again for £750,000

to visit them in their new establishment, and often returned to Buckland as they used to at the Taychreggan. The hotel, which has two restaurants with two AA rosettes for food, employs 12 staff including

three chefs, housekeeping staff and a full-time gardener. A double room with en suite bathroom costs £90 per person per night for bed, breakfast and dinner, including early morning tea (ring 01548 853 055).

house in three acres, can be yours for £275,000 through Robert Barry and Co. Or the Golf Hotel, a 22-bedroom baronial property at Eile on the Fife coast near St Andrews, is for sale at £550,000 through Christie & Co.

For £350,000 you could buy the Murchach Lodge Hotel, a 14-bedroom Victorian High-

land lodge in six acres above the River Dullin at Grantown-on-Spey, through Robert Barry & Co.

Down in Somerset, Robert Barry is asking £150,000 for the Old Manor Farmhouse, a seven-bedroom licensed B&B hotel near Taunton. In the Cotswolds, the asking price for the Conygree Gate Country

"Running a country house hotel requires dedication, a good alarm clock and a lot of love," Mr Taylor says.

"Housekeeping plays a vital part, and the quality of service and atmosphere are also important. But it doesn't have to be pompous just because it is a beautiful building, with antiques and pictures around. I like to hear people talking and laughing, it gives the place a lively atmosphere."

**NOW THE Taylors' youngest son, George, a partner in their hotel business, has left Buckland to run an inn in Brighton, so the Taylors will retire for a second time. Buckland-Tout-Saints is now back on the market at £750,000, through Knight Frank.**

"It was great to see Buckland-Tout-Saints coming to life again. Although we have a superb team, we feel that without George, we cannot do Buckland justice. It is time for someone younger to take the reins," Mr Taylor says.

## NORFOLK

**W**HEN Peter Hoskins took over the 20-year lease on the Victoria Hotel, a Grade II listed 18th-century inn at the entrance to the 3,000-acre Holkham estate on the north Norfolk coast, he was taking a gamble. His prospective landlord, the Earl of Leicester, agreed to grant the lease in exchange for £100,000 to be spent on restoring the hotel.

Yet when Mr Hoskins moved in last May, there were only three bedrooms suitable for letting. The other five bedrooms were unusable, and a new central heating system needed to be installed. There were just seven bookings for the entire summer period.

"Holkham, with its famous hall and miles of unspoilt sandy beaches, fringed by pine forests, is a unique location. It was an opportunity to create something special. But there was no guarantee that it would work," says Mr Hoskins, who previously ran an eight-bedroom hotel in Cambridge.

"Little money had been spent on the hotel for many years, so there was a lot of decorating as well as structural changes to be made, with the installation of en suite bathrooms."

**NOW THERE** are eight well-appointed bedrooms decorated with pretty curtains and matching bedspreads, large, top-quality beds and crisp linen. Each bedroom has its own separate bathroom.

Guests may stay from £60 per couple per night, including a full English breakfast (ring 01328 710469).

The hotel is filled with good furniture and paintings. Fresh flowers adorn the tables in the 80-seater restaurant, which overlooks the pine forest and offers traditional, home-cooked Norfolk fare.

The investment of effort has been well rewarded. The Victoria has a good level of bookings for the summer season, and the restaurant is doing three times as much business as it was a year ago. There are plans to extend the restaurant area next year to accommodate families with young children, and to provide more parking spaces.

"We want to be able to cater for everybody," Mr Hoskins says. "These days, running a hotel is a family-orientated business." Above all, it is essential for a country inn to create a relaxed atmosphere where people from all walks of life can enjoy themselves.

Mr Hoskins runs the hotel, bar and restaurant with a staff of 14, including two chefs.

Moving upmarket, Coombe Park Hotel, a Grade II listed 17th-century country house hotel with four acres in Exmoor National Park, is for sale at £400,000, through Knight Frank. It has ten bedrooms, a dining room, three reception rooms, owner's accommodation, a self-contained flat and stabling.

If £600,000 is in your range, the 14th-century Tytherleigh Cot Hotel in the village of Chardstock, near Axminster, comes with 18 bedrooms, a restaurant, bar and lounge, two-bedroom cottage and three-bedroomed thatched owner's house.

At the top of the market, Savills is looking for offers of around £2.5 million for the Swan Hotel, a recently refurbished three star/four crown/ two rosette 17th-century hotel at Bibury in the Cotswolds. It has 18 en suite bedrooms, an 80-seater dining room, two lounges, bar, brasserie and conference facilities. The gardens are bordered by the River Coln and the hotel has fishing rights.

● Christie & Co 0131-557 6606 (Scotland), 0117-474 4366 (Bristol); Robert Barry & Co 01283 641642; Knight Frank 01892 423111; Savills 0171-494 8544; Hamptons 0171-893 8222; Brian A. French (Italy) 0171-284 0114; Sifer (France) 0171-384 1200; Alpine Apartments (France) 01544 388234.

## ITALY

**T**WELVE years ago, Suffolk couple Sarah Townsend, an art teacher and painter, and her husband Johnny, a stockbroker, bought Il Castagno, a 200-year-old three-bedroom stone farmhouse in 25 acres in Tuscany, which they used for holidays.

Their farmhouse, which cost £60,000 plus another £150,000 to restore, soon became a popular holiday haven for their friends — so they decided to buy another, larger property in the same area and rent out Il Castagno to provide an income (up to £2,500 a week in July and August, with maid service and a gardener).

They found Il Bacchino, a 17th-century hillside villa in steeply terraced gardens, approached by a narrow mountain road near the medieval town of Cortona. Carved in stone above the front door is an ancient message: *Angusta domus utinam bonis repleat amicos* (may this humble house be filled to overflowing with good friends).

When the Townsends first saw the sunbleached stone villa, built by the church as a retreat for the cardinals, it had not been lived in for 12 years. The roof had fallen in, several pipes had burst, the living-room floor was strewn with plaster and there was no electricity or mains water supply. "Everything was covered in mould because of the humidity, and the garden was overgrown," Mrs Townsend says. "But it was a magical place, with the scent of jasmine wafting on the breeze and a view to die for. We had to buy it," she says.

They paid £150,000 for the 12-roomed house, which has vaulted wine cellars and its own chapel, and set about restoring it. Because Il Bacchino is a listed building, permission had to be obtained for everything.

Working with local craftsmen, they repaired the original terracotta tiled floors, brick and



Il Bacchino, transformed from ruin to lucrative small hotel

beamed ceilings and ancient frescoes. Electricity had to be laid on and a new well dug, the drains needed replacing and a septic tank had to be installed. Repairs to the roof, replumbing, rewiring, replastering, a modern kitchen and several bathrooms added to the cost.

**TWO YEARS** later, in 1988, the Townsends moved to Tuscany. Mrs Townsend left her teaching job and they sold their home in Suffolk to pay for the restoration of Il Bacchino: almost £500,000. And there was still work to be done — a pergola for the garden, a computerised watering system and a mosaic swimming pool. "The money had run out, so I decided to advertise for paying guests," says Mrs Townsend.

"The response was overwhelming."

Il Bacchino has since grown into an exclusive Tuscan guest house. The five bedrooms, all with bathrooms, are filled with antique furniture, paintings, fresh flowers and crisp linen, and are booked from March until November at £100 a night for B&B (ring 00 39 575 603 284).

Now the couple have bought an abandoned medieval palazzo near Citta di Castello in Umbria, which they plan to convert into a hotel. The 20-roomed ruin cost £100,000 but they expect to spend around £1 million to restore it to its former glory.

Meanwhile, Il Bacchino and Il Castagno are for sale through Knight Frank, to fund the renovation work on the palazzo.

## Keeping a welcome in the vineyard

Prospects for hoteliers abroad from Burgundy and Tuscany to Moscow

**O**n continental Europe, a steady stream of well-heeled British buyers willing to restore rural stone ruins that have remained untouched for centuries. Prices are not cheap: the closer to Florence, the more expensive the property. Expect to pay at least £250,000 for a habitable stone farmhouse with five bedrooms and scope for a guest house.

Prices are lower in Le Marche, southeast of Tuscany, where Brian French & Associates is asking £200,000 for a restored six-bedroom farmhouse near the medieval hill town of Ascoli Piceno.

**M**ajorca is also attracting British buyers in search of traditional buildings to turn into upmarket hotels. Hampsons International, for instance, is asking £2 million for S'Hiereta, a restored 300-year-old farmhouse on a hilltop in the northwest of the island, which has 48 rooms.

In Moscow, Knight Frank has a portfolio of 200 hotels worth around £650 million, ranging from 100 to 3,200 rooms, including the refurbished five-star National on Red Square and the 1,000-roomed Ukraina on the River Moskva. Many hotels require renovation or reconstruction.



La Roseraie, a 16th-century manor house in the Burgundy vineyards

## FRANCE

**S**EVEN years ago Roz Binns and her husband John, an airline pilot, sold a plot at the side of their house, a four-bedroom stone cottage near Wellingborough in Northamptonshire, and bought La Roseraie, a 16th-century manor house near Macon in Burgundy. They paid £70,000, including legal fees, for the imposing seven-bedroom house in four acres of parkland.

"Originally we were looking for a second home in Burgundy, but we fell in love with the area and decided to buy a larger house and try our hand at a bed and breakfast business," says Mrs Binns, who gave up her job as an air stewardess on long-haul flights to run the enterprise.

"The house was perfect for our project, being within easy reach of the international airport at Dijon and close to the TGV station at Monchanin, with connections to Paris in 85 minutes."

They sold their home in Britain and moved to France in 1990, but spent half their first year getting the house into shape after years of neglect. The roof needed attention, the drains had to be replaced and the building needed rewiring, replumbing, redecorating and several new windows. They also added a gite, converting an attached cottage

into self-contained accommodation which they let to holidaymakers.

"We reckoned the cost of the renovation to be roughly the same as the purchase price," Mrs Binns says. "The final bill came to £130,000, almost double our original estimate, which meant selling our UK home to foot the bill. Renovating a house in France is expensive: a tin of paint costs £30 and labour costs are high."

They applied through Gites de France for a grant from the local authority, which paid them Fr36,000 (about £5,000) to set up the *chambre d'hôtes* (bed & breakfast) business.

**LA ROSERAIE**, now in its sixth season, is included in several Gites de France publications, including the coveted *Chambre d'hôtes de prestige*. The six guest bedrooms, each with bathroom en suite, are fully booked for most of the summer. Visitors pay £50 per night per couple for B&B (ring 00 33 85 24 67 82).

Mrs Binns now speaks fluent French and runs the business single-handedly for much of the year, while her husband is away flying private jets for Arab businessmen. "It is like running a jumbo jet with fewer people for breakfast," she says. "The summer months, May to October, are very busy but the rest of the year is dead."

"It helps if you speak French. I didn't at the start and it was hard."







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UN



## Sorting the buyers from the browsers

Rachel Kelly on the problems for sellers in sifting serious inquiries from time-wasting house tourists

**H**ear the one about the man with the turbocharged Bentley and a young lady in a checked headscarf in tow? The story is legendary in estate agency circles. The young blood visited a number of country estates. He was endlessly enthusiastic and knew his Purdeys from his perogals. Yet he never bought so much as an acre.

"It turned out that he had borrowed the car for a test drive and was trying to impress his young fiancée by pretending to buy houses he could not possibly afford," says Patrick Ramsay of agents Knight Frank.

That was a decade ago, yet "phantom buyers" are still a nuisance.

The much-heralded market recovery has helped to reduce the problem. Tim Wright, from Savills in Kensington, says: "In a relatively strong market, buyers are more certain, and because there is less to choose from, they have to make up their minds fast."

At present, sales are still well down on the levels seen in the late 1980s. Figures released last month by the Land Registry show that 787,337 homes were sold last year, less than half the number sold annually — more than two million — at the peak of the market.

Although the market has reawakened to some extent, agents remain desperate to shift houses. And in such a climate, they can be less wary about checking potential buyers.

The worst affected vendors are those with well-known names and extremely desirable houses which many people, inspired by little more than curiosity, wish to snoop around. Agents call this "the Hello! factor". The home of the late Sir David Lean, Sun

### WHAT TO DO

The best way to avoid time-wasters is to:

■ Check that your agent weeds out casual callers by asking for names and addresses, how many other houses they have visited, which other agents they have used, how long have they been looking and how they plan to finance any purchase.

■ Suggest that the agent charges for brochures. Colin Strang Steel of Knight Frank's office in Edinburgh, for instance, charged £20 for the 27-page illustrated brochure of Beaufort Castle estate.

■ Ask your agent to conduct viewings when you are out, as far as possible. Make it clear that organising the timing of visits is their problem, not yours. You are paying them to solve the problem.

■ Consider an open house on Saturday — the American system whereby everybody comes round on the same day.

Wharf in Docklands, recently attracted its fair share of such dubious prospective buyers.

Women, apparently, can be particularly prone to time-wasting. "Typically, a wife decides that she wants a bigger house, or wishes to buy rather than rent," says David Forbes of Chesterfield. "She will look at hundreds of houses without having dis-

cussed it with her husband. Then we find that the husband has no intention of investing more in property, or is about to move abroad."

Savills refers to *pseudologica fantastica* — the psychiatric term for delusions of grandeur — in connection with such unwelcome house tourists, and suggests that name-droppers are the worst offenders of all.

Sifting out the time-wasters while taking care not to alienate genuine potential buyers is a delicate art which some agents make no attempt to master. After all, looks alone can be an unreliable guide to a potential buyer's sincerity. "He may look as if he hasn't got two pennies to rub together, but in fact have £1 million in the bank," says John Gibson of Savills.

"Everyone who walks through the door must be treated at face value," says Linda Beane of the London agents Beane Pearce. "Often it is a combination of instinct and years of experience which gives you some insight into buyers."

Conrad Payne of Cluttons' Canterbury office agrees. "Some buyers may not look serious at the outset because their inquiries are so vague," he says. "They have no preconceived idea of what they want to buy. Funnily enough, they can be the ones who get more easily 'converted' when they view a suitable property."

One type of property, however, seems to be relatively immune from the phantom buyer: the remote Highland estate. Colin Strang Steel of Knight Frank says: "For most people, especially those living south of the border, it is necessary to set aside at least a day in order to visit an estate. That tends to deter those who are not interested."

### CASE STUDY

IAN DOWNING has been trying to sell his house in Worcestershire for almost three years. Heaven's Gate is a three-bedroom cottage between Bromyard and Tenbury Wells, a 45-minute drive from Birmingham. It has more than an acre of garden and orchard, and the asking price is £149,500. But Mr Downing has now seen so many time-wasters, he has taken it off the market.

"When I put it on the market in June with the agents Andrew Grant in Worcester, I told them I was looking for an early sale," says Mr Downing. "I asked for completion before the end of October because I planned to go to Rome for the winter. 'Lucky for some,' laughed the estate agent, 'leave it to us.'"

"That conversation took place in June 1993. The agents have arranged a total of 20 viewings — 'prospective purchasers' is how they refer to them. But in my view, most of them have simply been doing a spot of sightseeing."

"The first couple were hours late. They hadn't got lost, they were just touring the area. Had they sold their own house? No. Was their house up for sale? No. I soon realised the truth. I'd spent my Saturday waiting for tourists."

"Time-wasters typically consist of 'eager beaver' types such as the man who breezed in maddeningly enthusiastic, wanting to discuss every detail. His wife trailed behind him, moaning loudly at intervals. After he had finished crawling into every nook and cranny and exploring all corners of the garden, asking endless interested questions... 'Ah, no, sorry. It won't do for us. You see, we've inherited a lot of very bulky antique furniture which we wouldn't want to part with. It simply wouldn't fit in your living room.'"

"Other time-wasters were those who had not made an appointment, but would I mind if they had a quick look? A quick look it was, in



No buyers yet: Ian Downing's three-bedroom cottage

one case — the whole house within three minutes. As we were about to go into the garden, the husband asked if he might pop into the bathroom.

"I waited with his wife outside. After 15 minutes, he returned and they both drove off. On inspection of the bathroom, it was obvious that my prospective buyer had been reading my book. A thought struck me: had he only called in to use the lavatory?"

"The house is now temporarily off the market. The agent, Andrew Grant, comments that he sells between 700 and 800 houses every year through his offices, and 'I find that if a client reviews the situation, including the asking price, from time to time, a sale can be achieved.'"

The agents are suing Mr Downing for unpaid advertising costs of £750. Meanwhile, Mr Downing refuses to pay because he claims that the agents mishandled his sale and lost him money. He is counter-claiming and the case is shortly going to the county court.

A wooden wonder inspired by one man, constructed by another in his spare time



Architect Jon Broome's house in Lewisham uses natural materials, including turf on the roof, to save energy and blend in with its surroundings

## The house that Jon built

**P**ioneering ideas by the architect Walter Segal for easy-to-build houses with timber frames have taken root in the social housing sector since his death in 1985. But now they are blossoming at the exclusive end of the property spectrum too: one of his disciples has built the biggest and most luxurious Segal-method house yet in Lewisham, southeast London.

Jon Broome, 47, an architect formerly employed by Lewisham Borough Council, worked with Segal for several years and adapted his approach for housing association projects in which prospective tenants built their homes with their own hands. He knew the approach worked, even for those with no previous building experience — so when Mr Broome needed a new home for himself and his family, he opted for self-build.

The result is a striking five-bedroom house on a quarter-acre site. The trunks of Douglas fir trees are incorporated into the structure to harmonise with the trees that surround the house, and a turf roof helps to keep the heat in.

Although Mr Broome continued to work four days a week as a director of the architectural firm Archetype while building his house with the help of a carpenter, the project took just two-and-a-half years and £110,000 to complete.

"It was hard work holding down a job and being the designer, structural engineer and project manager, sourcing materials and paying for it all," he says. "In the middle of it all, we had our second baby. But it was worth it."

His high-spec home is a far cry from the first Segal house, a small Swiss ski lodge designed nearly 60 years before by the German-Jewish architect who emigrated to Britain before the war, and in 1961 used a similar approach to

build a wooden bungalow as a temporary family home in the garden of a house in Hampstead which he was renovating.

Mr Segal assembled timber frames on site, then raised them as the load-bearing mainstay of the structure before slotting in walls, floors and the roof. People admired the result and he received commissions to design similar buildings. Then one couple hit on the idea of building their house themselves.

Segal, always an egalitarian, liked the self-build idea and saw its potential. His approach used standard components but involved no bricklaying or plastering, the so-called "wet" trade skills. Foundations were usually simple concrete pads on which each wooden support rested at existing ground levels, making the method ideal for sloping or uneven sites.

Mr Broome says that Segal houses should also stand the test of time, despite being built largely of wood. "They should last for 300 years," he says.

"Many of Britain's oldest buildings are made of timber — wattle-and-daub houses, for example."

Although Walter Segal designed the first self-build schemes in Lewisham in 1975, his ideas were slow to take off during his lifetime. After his death, Jon Broome and others set up the Walter Segal Self-build Trust, a charity to promote Mr Segal's ideas, which have slowly become more popular with housing associations.

Now, 150 Segal-inspired houses have been built around the country, 49 of them on three housing association sites in Brighton. Most were self-build. Archetype has specialised in working on such schemes, incorporating ecologically sound principles. But Jon Broome, who already lived in a Segal-inspired home which he had built himself, needed more room for his family and longed to embark on a more ambitious "green" design. Eventually he and his partner, Rona Nicholson, found a suitable site that was part of an orchard.

"These buildings fit into the landscape without destroying it, while a conventional developer will move in and flatten the site," Mr Broome says. "Because there are virtually no foundations, you can build these houses very close to trees. Grass roofs, which anchor the waterproof roof membrane, also relate well to the environment."

"Energy conservation is important, so we have double-glazed high-performance windows, a condensing boiler, a passive solar conservatory that helps to heat the house, controlled ventilation and thick insulation made from recycled newspapers sandwiched into the walls."

"Once you reduce the amount of energy consumed in heating a building, the



A Segal-style self-built house in Woolwich, southeast London

amount that goes into constructing it assumes a greater significance. So our timber travels from Wales, including the larch used to face the building, and we avoided plastics. Wherever we could, for

example in paints, we used products that substitute natural oils for chemicals."

The high central section of the new building contains the kitchen and dining room, surrounded by the other rooms, including a studio, living room and bedrooms.

"Inside there is a lot of exposed wood and it feels North American," Mr Broome says. "One advantage of building like this is that because none of the walls are load-bearing, you can make some of it up as you go along. Once the basic structure is up, you can decide how you will use the space."

How does the construction cost compare with conventional building methods? The Segal Trust's official line is that it is no cheaper, but that savings are made on labour costs and by cutting out the middleman — the builder. But an analysis by the developers Rosehaugh Stanhope suggests the method can be a third cheaper than

conventional building, and cheaper than buying kits. A three-bed house would cost about £34,000 to build at this year's prices.

What would Mr Segal himself have thought of Mr Broome's house? "I think he would have loved it," says trustee Brian Richardson, a retired Lewisham Council architect.

"He never stopped changing his own approach, so he would have expected us to go on developing new ideas in the same tradition."

But Mr Broome is less sure. "He was a man of modest personal desires and our place is big," he says. "I think he would regard it as over the top. But we love it."

CHRISTINE WEBB

● Archetype 0171-403 2896; Walter Segal Self-build Trust 0171-385 9282

● Recommended reading: *The Self-Build Book* by Brian Richardson and Jon Broome. Green Books, £15. Out of the Woods by Pat Borer and Cindy Harris, £12.50, CAT Publications.

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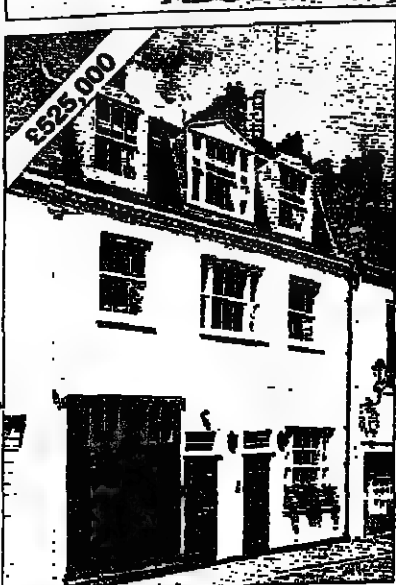
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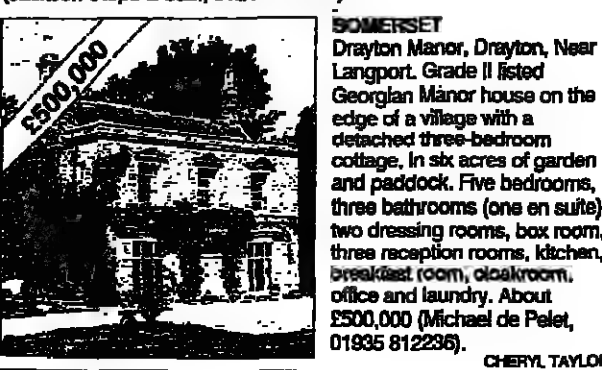
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Hough Hall, Hough, Near Nantwich. Grade II\* listed 17th-century country house with self-contained coach house and garaging for four cars, in four acres of wooded gardens. Eight bedrooms, four bathrooms (two en suite), three reception rooms, sun lounge, study, kitchen/breakfast area, utility and bullers pantry. About £550,000 (Jackson-Stops & Staff, 01244 328361).



SOMERSET  
Drayton Manor, Drayton, Near Langport. Grade II listed Georgian Manor house on the edge of a village with a detached three-bedroom cottage, in six acres of garden and paddock. Five bedrooms, three bathrooms (one en suite), two dressing rooms, box room, three reception rooms, kitchen, breakfast room, cloakroom, office and laundry. About £500,000 (Michael de Pelet, 01935 812236).

CHEVYLA TAYLOR







## SHOPPING

13

# How to buy peace on long family journeys

The smart parents' guide to keeping the backseat brigade quietly occupied

Get a nanny," came the weary reply when I canvassed parents about the most effective ways to occupy children on long journeys. "Failing that, dope them." But what if you do not wish to attract the attention of the social services and cannot afford a 19-year-old Australian with endless enthusiasm to live in the backseat of your car? What amusements can be bought to enrage children in cars, on boats, on planes? "Stories on tape" was the unanimous third-best suggestion from parents. "Crisps," said the children.

The drawback to listening to stories on a car radio is that it is a communal activity. But such is the choice and quality of taped stories that it is no hardship for an adult to listen in. Any Road Dahl should keep the whole family company in rapt attention down the motorway, and the five books of *The Chronicles of Narnia* could see you down as far as the South of France.

If parental choice has any sway, the BBC's Young Collection offers a comforting selection of stories read by actors: *Ballet Shoes* read by Harriet Walter, *The Jungle Book* with Freddie Jones and Eamonn Carty, *The Wind in the Willows*. But even Alan Bennett reading *Winnie the Pooh* can pall after the nth hearing, at which point you might wish to invest in a personal stereo.

The horribly named and coloured My First Sony costs about £30 but has an automatic volume limiter to protect small eardrums, as well as parental sensibilities.

Also recommended are the *Bibles of original Jackanory* soundtracks, which include *Stories for Children by Oscar Wilde* read

by Alec McCowen and *Lizzie Dripping and the Witch* read by Patricia Routledge. You could also record your own story tape. One mother who has done so says there is nothing that engages her children (aged seven and four) so much as a tape of her reading their favourite stories, singing songs and telling jokes, adding personal interjections such as: "You'll like this one, Tom."

This kind of parental customisation is the key to keeping children interested, not merely occupied, when travelling. Experienced parents have worked out that it's not what you buy for a trip, but how you present it. One mother, Anna Illingworth, makes up a surprise bag of 50p toys for each of her children for long journeys — a notebook and pencil, a fabric animal, a rubber insect, and so on. The fun is that everything is new.

Another mother, Sally Hamilton, has made compartmented hangings (like those fabric shoe-holders) which hook over the front seat headrests and dangle down in front of the children in the back. Each pocket contains a toy or a book, and always one surprise.

For air travel, Martha Pichey, herself a creator of toys, found a cheap and practical solution to her sons' impractical attachment to Lego. She buys Perspex boxes with removable trays from an ironmonger — the sort intended to hold nuts and bolts — and fills them with a selection of Lego. The boxes fit into the boys' backpacks and can be carried around easily.

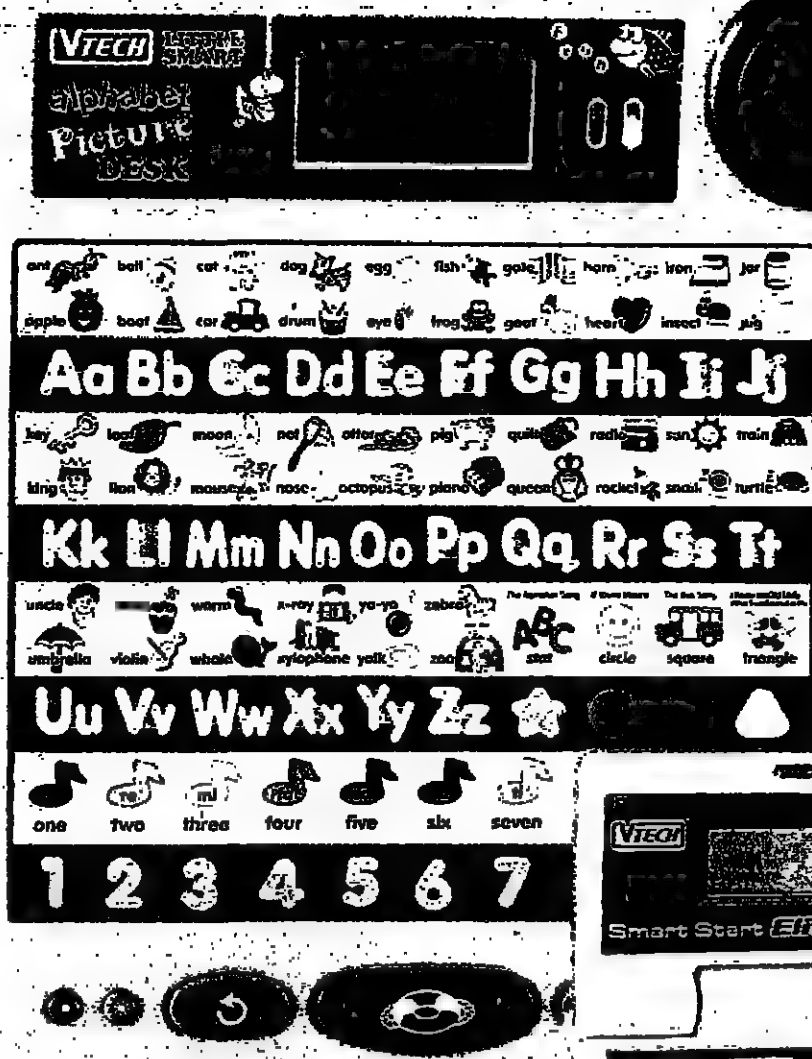
Despite all the freebie knapsacks and colouring books and baseball caps offered by airline companies,

her sons' Lego is always in great demand, with other children queuing to have a go. Games manufacturers have done some customising, too: most toy departments have a travel games section of miniature favourites, each no more than 8in square, costing £5-£8. The range includes Monopoly, which has a built-in compartment to contain all the pieces; Scrabble; Guess Who; Frustration; Pass the Pigs; and a magnetic compendium of traditional games (Judo, draughts, snakes and ladders, nine men's morris and backgammon).

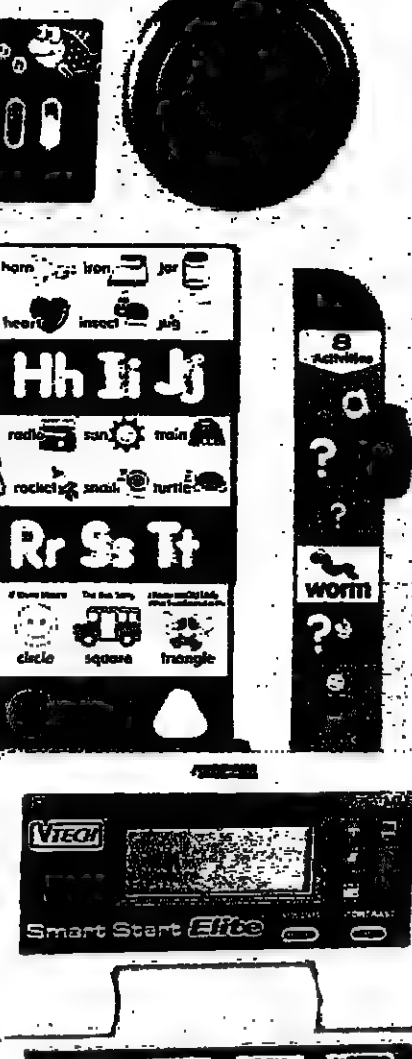
Battleships sets come in several forms, electronic and manual, and are easy to set up on a railway carriage table or a car's backseat. Magnetic games are a good idea

and the Early Learning Centre has several for £4-£8: a magnetic spelling board; magnetic art magnetic mosaics and a magnetic play desk which closes up into a little briefcase, just the right size for a child's knee, for £14.99. Even the older children will probably need some direction with these toys though, and parents will have to do some work finding them words to spell as they go along.

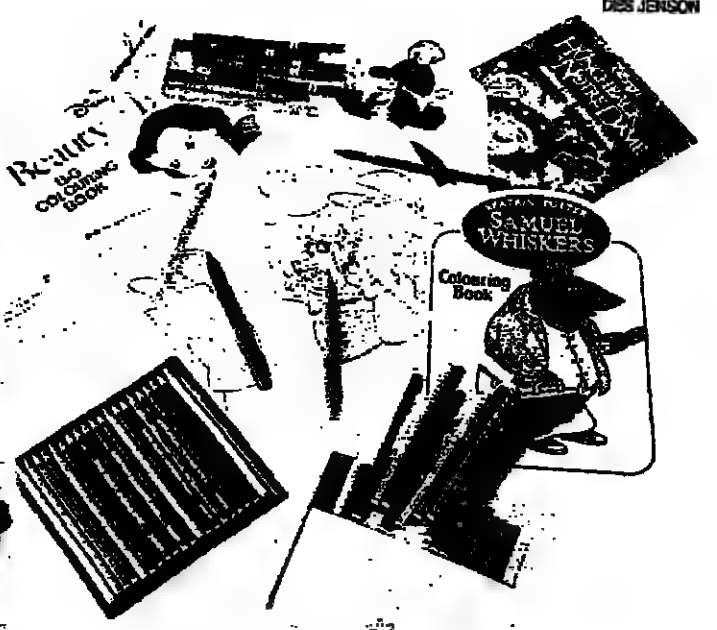
If you find this a wearisome task, there is a set of flash cards at the Early Learning Centre with French words on one side and a picture of a child or a baguette on the other to pronounce and spell. John Adams Toys makes a travel pack of cards illustrated with objects to spot in town and country, such as a windmill or a football pitch.



The VTECH Alphabet Picture Desk (£39.99), for a child up to six, has eight activities and a voice. Stockists on 01235 546810



Below: the VTECH Smart Start Elite (£44.99) has learning activities including spelling, maths and music at three levels of difficulty. 01235 546810 for stockists



Above: WH Smith colouring books from about £2; 20 colouring pencils, £7.25; double-ended pens, £2.25; 20 fibre-tip pens, £1.20

Below: the VTECH Smart Start Elite (£44.99) has learning activities including spelling, maths and music at three levels of difficulty. 01235 546810 for stockists

themselves stuck all over the windows of the car.

The craft section of toy departments yields some good, quiet occupations: braiding sets for making friendship bracelets and plaits for the hair, or badge kits.

Potentially more irritating to fellow passengers are magic sets: Marvin's Magic makes little boxed tricks, such as Baffling Boxes, or a Magic Dice Tunnel for about £3, or the Secret Box of Close-Up Magic containing 25 tricks for about £17.

Whatever you buy it's worth getting *My Day-to-Day Holiday Book: Age 5-8 / Age 9-12* by Sally Emerson (Pan Macmillan, £2.99 each) before you go away. The books give you a wealth of ideas for journeys, as well as the holidays themselves, and is a much better bet than my parents' fall-back game, *Guess the Composer*. This involved long hours of silent listening to Radio 3, only occasionally punctuated by a whispered suggestion: "...Is it Beethoven?" Clever parents.

SUE SWIFT

ABC Young Collection cassette are available in record and book stores, and by mail order (0181-576 2239).  
 MB Games, Galt Toys and Spears Games are available at most toy shops.  
 The Early Learning Centre has 300 shops throughout Britain; ring 01793 443159 for a catalogue.  
 Additional research by Caroline Griffiths.

Parents on parenting, page 15

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A splash of Greene, a twist of Deighton, a small measure of history — John Lawton has produced a thrilling cocktail, Peter Millar writes

## Khrushchev through the spyhole

JOHN LAWTON'S first novel, *Black Out*, was selected for WH Smith's Fresh Talent list last year and was praised by Scott Turow as "bringing to mind le Carré". Which only goes to show that even an acknowledged master of the all-pervasive American legal thriller can know little about the niceties of classic British espionage fiction.

There is almost nothing of the laid-back, ironically retrospective, world-weary le Carré style in Lawton's writing. He is far closer to early Graham Greene, in his "entertainment" mode, with perhaps a touch of late Len Deighton when it comes to incestuousness of

plot. *Old Flames* is the sequel to *Black Out*, and every bit as good, although readers coming to it fresh will regret not having met the cast earlier, if only to answer nagging questions about their past.

The action is set in that strange summer of 1956 with the British Empire at twilight preparing to renege its glorious history as farce in Suez, sandwiched between the burgeoning new imperialisms of

Moscow and Washington. Our hero, Freddy Troy, Scotland Yard's detective chief inspector in charge of the murder squad, is a character — as is pointed out to him in the pages of this book — who might have been born and brought up in a John Buchan novel before going to seed in middle age in 1950s Soho. Lawton makes much of the temporal setting, treating his scene-setting with all the loving

■ **OLD FLAMES**  
By John Lawton  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15.99  
ISBN 0 297 81695 0

care of a Jane Austen adaptation. This is a deliberately constructed period piece — laden with the contrasts of 1950s tatty pseudo-modernity against the dull solidity of immemorial Englishness. Troy's Russian immigrant background

allows us to view ourselves from his critical standpoint as an outsider emotionally crippled by his need to belong.

All of that is called into question as he is drafted in, because of his command of Russian, to eavesdrop on Nikita Khrushchev during his visit to Britain. The eventual result is his involvement in a bizarre series of murders, new and old sexual liaisons, tying into a web of

improbable espionage involving a Derbyshire carpet salesman with a penchant for wearing his frogman's suit in bed.

As if to complete the true-life setting, there are amusing cameo performances from real-life contemporary luminaries: notably Khrushchev himself as the arrogant, foul-mouthed peasant with power, plus George Brown and Tom Driberg as their inimitable,

outsoken selves. In an historical postscript, Lawton admits that he has played fast and loose with any semblance of historical veracity, beyond pinching a few basics of his plot from actual events.

The result is an immensely readable, if sometimes infuriatingly involved, romp through the historical setting. The cast of characters — both borrowed and invented — is as richly rounded and eccentrically plausible as any in recent thriller fiction. Great stuff but it prompts the question of how Lawton will conclude what I feel must be a trilogy: Cuba perhaps?

## Choking grip of a killer

Mary Loudon is both enthralled and sickened by the graphic detail of a homosexual murder spree

I MADE a sandwich for myself in the middle of reading *Exquisite Corpse* and it was a mistake. Clearly fascinated and appalled by the multiple killings of murderers Dennis Nilsen and Jeffrey Dahmer, Poppy Z. Brite's fourth horror novel concerns a (fictional) serial killer of young homosexual men; a man so lonely and so deranged he kills for company, keeping the corpses of his victims in bed or an armchair, stroking and

■ **EXQUISITE CORPSE**  
By Poppy Z. Brite  
Millennium, £9.99  
ISBN 0 75280 205 4

nonetheless, its strength the result of Brite's shocking, vivid prose; of the colour and texture of her beautiful writing; of her wit, her intelligence and the complexity of even her most heinous characters.

Lots of people would hate this book, would think it unpleasant, offensive, vile. Is it? Well yes, of course it is. Violence is. But while Brite's descriptions of sexual murder are gruesome beyond belief, her attempts to explore what might drive a man to it, over and over again, is disturbing, intriguing and may or may not be close to some sort of truth.

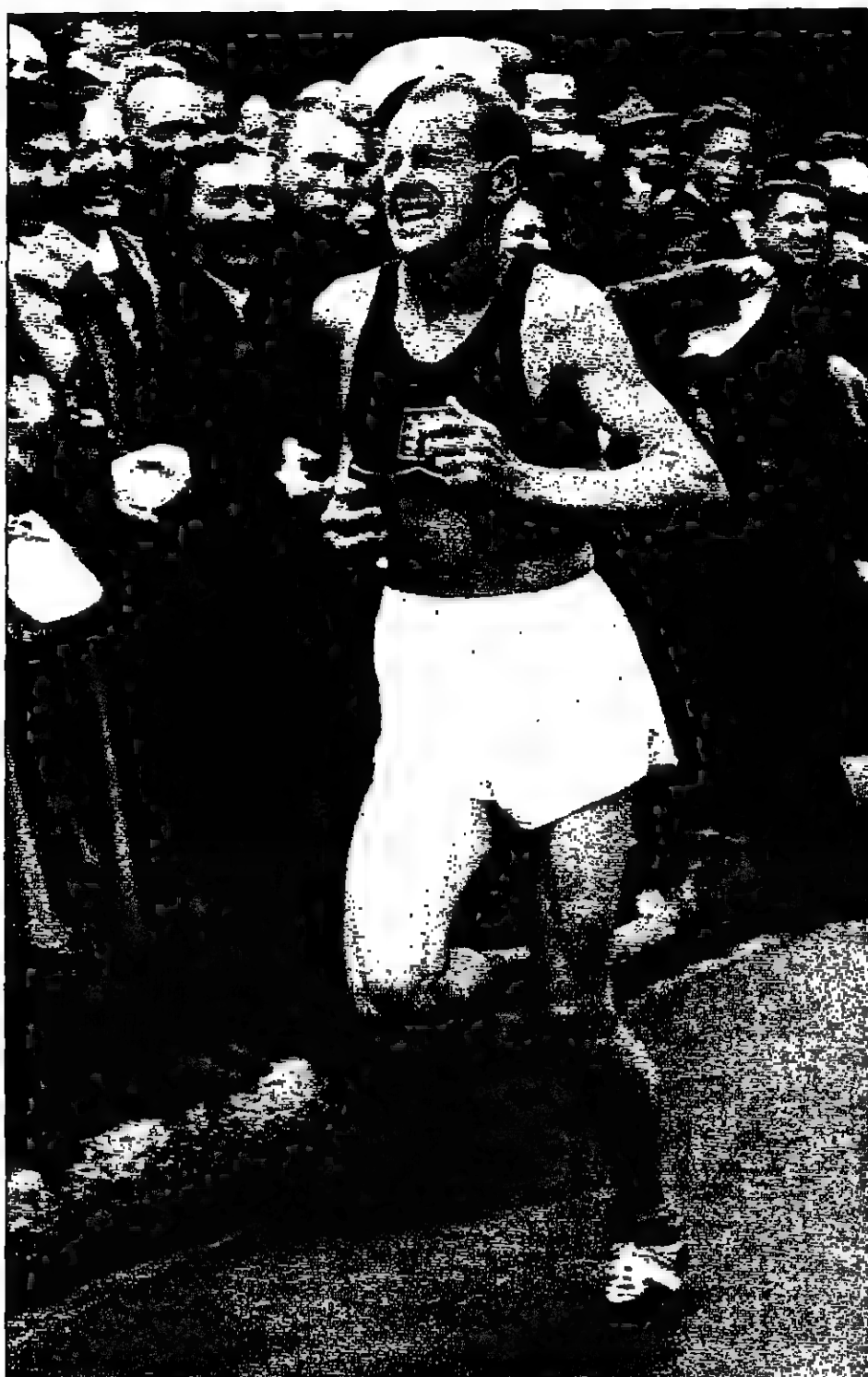
I confess that I wondered what I might have felt had this novel been written by a man. It should not make any difference, but I think it probably did. I suspect that if it had been, I might have found *Exquisite Corpse* alarming for a whole host of other reasons, and I wonder whether this is sexist of me. Perhaps it is, but perhaps I was also seeking comfort in the fact that this tale of lurid homosexual destruction was indeed merely fantasy, written as it was by a woman. If that is the case, then it is a testimony to the seductive power of Brite's writing; for however shocking it is, *Exquisite Corpse* is a book to devour. But not while you are eating.



Brite: seductive power

talking to and raping their rotting bodies until they begin to disintegrate, and then cutting them to pieces.

If you feel nauseous reading the above, then pity me and my sandwich. But not too much. For while *Exquisite Corpse* is the first novel I have ever read that made me feel physically sick, it is also one which held my attention utterly rapt until its ghastly end. The subject matter is foul but the narrative is arresting



Glory road: Emil Zátopek on his way to a gold medal in the 1952 Olympic marathon, from Dorling Kindersley's lavish *Chronicle of the Olympics 1906-1996* (£19.95)

## Nelson's columnist

■ **ANTHONY SAMPSON** has flown to South Africa this week to celebrate President Nelson Mandela's birthday, with a contract in his pocket to write the authorized biography of his old friend. It was Stuart Proffitt, Lady Thatcher's editor at HarperCollins, who came up with the idea, and the deal was concluded with the literary agent Michael Sissons during Mandela's visit to London.

Sampson has known the President since the 1950s, when Mandela was a young lawyer and Sampson was the editor of the celebrated anti-

### BOOK NEWS

apartheid magazine, *The Drum*. We shall discover more about Mandela's years in prison — and more about his matrimonial difficulties — when the book is published at the end of his presidential term in 1999.

■ **JOHN MAJOR'S** favourite eater, *Clare Lattimer*, bursts into print again this autumn with a cookbook that is sure to warm his heart (and his dinner plates): it will be entitled *Comfort Food*.

■ **THE Ministry of Defence** may soon be feeling less than pleased with one of its former heroes. The navigator John Nichol, who was shot down and briefly imprisoned during the Gulf War, is due to bring out his debut thriller, *Point of Impact*, with Hodder in the autumn. It takes its cue from the unusually high number of crashes that have occurred over the past year, and under the cover of fiction claims to tell some stark truths about the havoc wreaked by budget cuts on the RAF. But will it see the light of day?

## Cheers before bedtime

### TEENAGE FICTION

WHAT does the jewel-encrusted turtle stolen from a party actress in *Dakota* of the White Flats by film director Philip Ridley (Puffin, £3.99, ISBN 0 14 036893 0) have in common with the drain-dwelling monster of *Kindlekrux*, Ridley's earlier novel? Congenial and exotic, both creatures seem to be the key to adolescent triumph over adult pessimism, the ultimate coup in amazing friends. For *Dakota* Pink, heroine of this surreal tale, the nightmarish rescue of the glittering turtle from her child-hating father enables her to put him to shame. "Yes, yes, yes," he cries. "I'm bald, fat, small and charmless." An adventure set in anxiety-land, this dazzling pastiche of the magical and menacing is wittily captured by Chris Riddell's drawings.

Shadow of a Hero by Peter Dickinson (Corgi, £3.99, ISBN 0 552 52844 7) is a fantasy only so far as the Balkan state of Varina is fictional. Otherwise with its big neighbours, bitterly embattled history and fragile independence, it could be Bosnia/Croatia. Born in Britain, Letta is learning the language and legends of her

native land ("weird grammar" and all) from her grandfather, when he is called upon to return as Varina's figurehead. Letta's arrival on the scene opens up a story of political intrigue interwoven with conflicting personal relationships, making this an altogether fine example of Dickinson's impressive grasp of storytelling. In *Tyger Pool* by Pauline Fisk (Red Fox, £3.50, ISBN 0 09 926411 0), Rose is numbed by her mother's death and her father's apparent insensitivity. Then come further unwelcome jolts: the presence of an unloving lodger calling himself Aunt Cat and a building threat to Rose's magical woodland pool. Her only refuge is the warmly eccentric Rocket family, whose friendship braces her against darkening forces. Thirteen to fourteen-year-olds will be gripped as much by Rose's evolving strength as by a compelling and original fantasy in which human needs are powerfully explored.

MAUREEN OWEN

## Just for the krak of it

Fates entwine in a collection of Haitian short stories

■ **KRIKI KRAKI**  
By Edwidge Danticat  
Abacus, £5.99  
ISBN 0 349 10716 5

Haiti's fragile fragrances — bougainvillea and plantain — mingle with that of stinking pork intestines or rotting human flesh; landscapes of butterflies and mountains also include the American-built prisons in which so many women perish daily.

All the women in these stories are interlinked, by bloodlines or story lines, or plain common experience. In

*Caroline's Wedding*, a story of two adult daughters living in Brooklyn with their mother, the narrator attends a Haitian Mass at which the names of drowned refugees are read. A name recurs from the opening story. "The list was endless and with each name my heart beat faster, for it seemed as though many of those listed might have been people I'd known at some point in my life."

Through the casual way these stories and their characters part and rejoin, Danticat creates a feeling that we too, through our implied "krak" as we part the book's covers, are touched by a web of involvement, spun outwards from the short, powerful narrative threads that weave hypnotically across each page.

HELEN STEVENSON

## Sad songs drift across the border

■ **PUERTO VALLARTA SQUEEZE**  
By Robert James Waller  
Heinemann, £10  
ISBN 0 434 00259 3



Waller: a ballad-maker

VETERAN sniper and paid assassin Clayton Price begins to lose his grip when he settles a long-standing personal vendetta in Mexico instead of simply following orders. American journalist Danny Pastor, the only man in Puerto Vallarta who saw him do it, thinks he can dispel his own gathering sense of failure, and his writer's block, by helping the killer escape and selling the story. Danny's girlfriend Luz Maria insists on coming too, determined to realise her lifetime dream of escaping from the grinding poverty of Mexican village life to *el Norte*, the United States.

Robert James Waller's tale of Clayton and Danny's run for the border in a clapped-out Ford Bronco is a familiar one, with a scenario of *Gringos* against *federates*, rugged and inhospitable mountain landscapes, and smouldering *señoritas* with swinging hips. Danny helpfully reminds us from time to time of the family relationship between his story and those of others such as Hunter Thompson and Carlos Fuentes who have driven the dangerous *sideroads* down through Mexico from the American border towns. But Waller has a singular talent for drawing his reader emotionally deep into a world of deprivation, damaged lives, callousness and raw sensuality — the talent of the accomplished ballad-maker.

His style is spare and economical, but lyrical with suppressed feeling; he can seize and hold a key plot moment in a half-noticed glance or a

glimpsed gesture. His hunted men sense danger like the wildcats with whom they share the landscape. His women's fingers bring calm as they brush a bruised cheek: the warmth of a half-smile, the promise of a discreet embrace offer an emotional haven. In spite of the inevitability of its ending, *Puerto Vallarta Squeeze* holds the reader spellbound to the very last page.

"For flowers and sad songs," runs the epigram on the title page. On Luz Maria's tombstone in the tiny village of Ceylaysia, where she was born, Danny Pastor inscribes, "Nothing remains but flowers and sad songs." *Puerto Vallarta Squeeze* is as haunting as it is compelling — as unforgettable as a sad song.

LIZA JARDINE

## Guess who's for dinner

■ **FLESH AND BLOOD: A History of the Cannibal Complex**  
By Ray Tannahill  
Abacus, £8.99  
ISBN 0 349 10610 X

EATING people is wrong. Yet people do consume their fellows from time to time, and we are fascinated and obsessed with that fact. A luxuriant forest of myth, rumour, fabrication, anthropology and lurid journalism surrounds the subject. Ray Tannahill's book is an attempt to slash a way through this jungle, from the myths of pre-history to contemporary celebrities such as Issei Sagawa, the Japanese student who killed and ate his girlfriend and is now — in a development worthy of Jonathan Swift — a well-known restaurant critic in Japan.

*Flesh and Blood* is a grizzly but not altogether convincing read. This is partly because Tannahill relies on piling one damn thing on top of another, and partly because much of the "evidence" of cannibalistic practices is so implausible.

Human attitudes to cannibalism have always been ambivalent. It is regarded as the ultimate taboo, but, when done for reasons of survival, it evokes a kind of horror-struck



Myth: cannibals in Gabon

acquiescence — as when those stout Catholic youths survived a plane crash in the Andes in 1972 by eating their deceased fellow passengers.

The fascination is in the question: would I have done the same? In the same year, a small plane carrying David Kootook, a 14-year-old Inuit, together with his chronically ill aunt and a nurse, crashed in the Arctic. The nurse died instantly, the aunt soon afterwards. When the emergency rations ran out, the crippled pilot proposed that they should eat the others. David refused on the grounds that both had been good to him, and died a few days later. The pilot ate the nurse — and survived. Which is the hero?

JOHN NAUGHTON

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4	EXCESSION Iain M. Banks (Orbit)	£15.99	1
5	OPEN SKIES, CLOSED MINDS Nick Pope (Scribner)	£14.99	0
6	THE FOURTH ESTATE Jeffrey Archer (HarperCollins)	£16.99	0
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## BOOKS

15

## Did Rose West get a fair trial?

Justice might have  
been the victim of  
prejudice, says  
Marcel Berlins

■ "SHE MUST HAVE KNOWN"  
By Brian Masters  
Doubleday, £15.99  
ISBN 0 385 40650 9

THE title sums up what Brian Masters believes to be the main reason for the jury's verdicts that Rosemary West was guilty of the murders of ten young women at 25 Cromwell Street. There was very little direct evidence, perhaps none at all, that she had participated directly in the killings carried out by her husband Fred. But how could she, living with Fred in what was, as Masters admits, a surprisingly small house, not have known of the murderous activities being carried out, not just once or twice but on at least ten occasions? She must have realised, even if she did not personally bring any life to its end, she must have been thoroughly implicated.

Masters does not accept that reasoning. He cannot go as far as claiming affirmatively that Rosemary was innocent; but he argues that the legal test of guilt in a criminal trial — "beyond reasonable doubt" — was not met. On the evidence before the jury, he argues, she should have been acquitted.

He is also worried about a number of aspects of the trial which acted to Rosemary's disadvantage, a concern shared by many lawyers at the time. In particular, Masters is not alone in feeling that the evidence against Rosemary was tainted by the fact that several important witnesses had sold their stories to newspapers and therefore had a financial interest in her conviction. Rosemary's most devastating antagonist, though, was her own husband. His suicide effectively denied her the chance of defending her role against his. We do not know whether, had he stood trial, Fred West would have tried to persuade the jury of Rosemary's responsibility for the killings, or of her ignorance of them — and whether the jury would have believed him. Perhaps Geoffrey Wansell's forthcoming biography of Fred, with access to his writings and confessions, will reveal more.

Masters supports his thesis with some interesting psychological analysis of Fred and Rosemary. As the author of two compelling studies of serial killers, Dennis Nilsen and Jeffrey Dahmer, Masters' opinions on mass murder are worth respect. In the end he puts up a good, though not overwhelming, case that Rosemary West was the victim of a wrongful conviction, according to law. But he never quite manages to refute the logic of his book's title: common sense tells



West: possible wrongful conviction

us that "she must have known". It does not matter too much, because had she been acquitted of murder, her depraved conduct would have resulted in other charges against her which would anyway have guaranteed a life sentence.

## Publish and be damned silly

■ BESTSELLER  
By Olivia Goldsmith  
HarperCollins, £14.99  
ISBN 0 00 225341 0

PUBLISHERS will probably start this account of their industry at the index — I did. Failing to find themselves — as I did — they will turn to the lengthy acknowledgements, which quickly reveal the apparatus as a little joke. Nothing for it but to read the book.

I found myself on page 63, at a party. I am with "the old charmer" Patrick Janson-Smith (of Transworld) and Ian Chapman (of Macmillan), "in need of a haircut". I have no adjectives appended — a rarity in *Bestseller*. I am not sure how to take the fact that my name has been borrowed to provide authenticity, along with any number of other publishing names and a good few anecdotes and in-jokes.

But do not read this book if you want to know what publishing is like. Reviewers of commercial fiction usually have a lot of fun at the expense of an author's inability to write about sex. Olivia Goldsmith hardly even tries. And yet, not for the first time, I am struck by a writer's inability to write about work — perhaps authors have more experience of sex than of office life.

Novels of the 1980s tended to be long by virtue of plaiting together two or three strands which could quite easily be novels in their own right, drawn together by theme or place or — surprisingly often — jewellery and/or money. *Bestseller* is a novel of the 1990s. We know this because money is not the chief motivation. Instead we have too many stories, all about novelists or would-be novelists.

There is Gerald Ochs Smith, publisher-cum-novelist, and his editor-in-chief, in search of this year's bestseller, as well as the brilliant-but-as-yet-unrecognised assistant, Emma, none of whom interested me one jot. Altogether more fun are the husband-and-wife team, in which the husband is trying to take credit for his wife's book; the English writer finishing her book and falling in love in Tuscany (I am a sucker for Italian settings); and, best of all, the strand which starts off with the least promise as a publisher's rejection letter causes Terry to commit suicide on page ten, but not before she has ruminated on the fact that "the pain was not going to be ameliorated by the benison of talent", only for her mother to take up the cause of getting her daughter's novel published.

Despite some evidence that "the benison of talent" was entirely absent, I did find the mother in me rooting for her.

CLARE ALEXANDER  
The author is publishing director of Viking and Hamish Hamilton.

## Helping mother to know best

■ PARENTS ON PARENTING  
By Sarah Johnson  
Vernilion, £9.99  
ISBN 0 09 178588 X

IN THE realm of bringing up children, parents often know better than any baby-care guru. You only have to watch a naturally good parent at work, in the street, at the supermarket, on the train to learn more in ten minutes about bringing up baby than reading a stack of baby books.

I very much like the idea of tackling child rearing from the outside, so to speak, and this book repeatedly cuts through the theory to the nub of what childcare is all about in a way I found refreshing and appealing, but most of all useful.

Parents casting about for guidance on how to be a good parent will be relieved to find suggestions which are instantly applicable. Separate the child from the behaviour; say, "That was a naughty thing to do," not "You're a naughty girl." Do not shout. Shouting breeds shouting and has less effect the more you do it, so try having a "whispering day" or pretend you have laryngitis. Keep a sense of proportion: your child will not have an unhappy life if he does not have his clothes but will if he thinks he can get away with bullying, lying or selfishness. Oh, lots of good stuff here.

The potency of pocket case-histories, which abound throughout the book, lies in their sincerity. No parent can fail to be reassured that so many diligent parents have struggled, tried alternatives and decided that it is not actually important if you cave in now and then over the sweets that were forbidden, a bedtime later than normal, or tidying the toys instead of her — your child will not turn into an axe-murderer. Next time just be honest. "Yes I gave in, but I was tired and regret it and I don't want you to have bad teeth."

THERE is hardly a sticky question left unanswered here and solutions come thick and fast in the form of "rescue packages" which I wish I had had access to 20 years ago. Just turn to page 71, where Beinda is describing how she coped with her three squabbling boys. "Say the rudest thing you like, just don't hit each other." Tongues hurt less than fists.

Best of all *Parents on Parenting* allows us to feel that we are not total failures. On smacking: "A parent who claims never to have smacked their child is very forgetful or a liar." And again: "It is odd that we prefer to hit our children when they are at their smallest and weakest, but that seems to be the way we are."

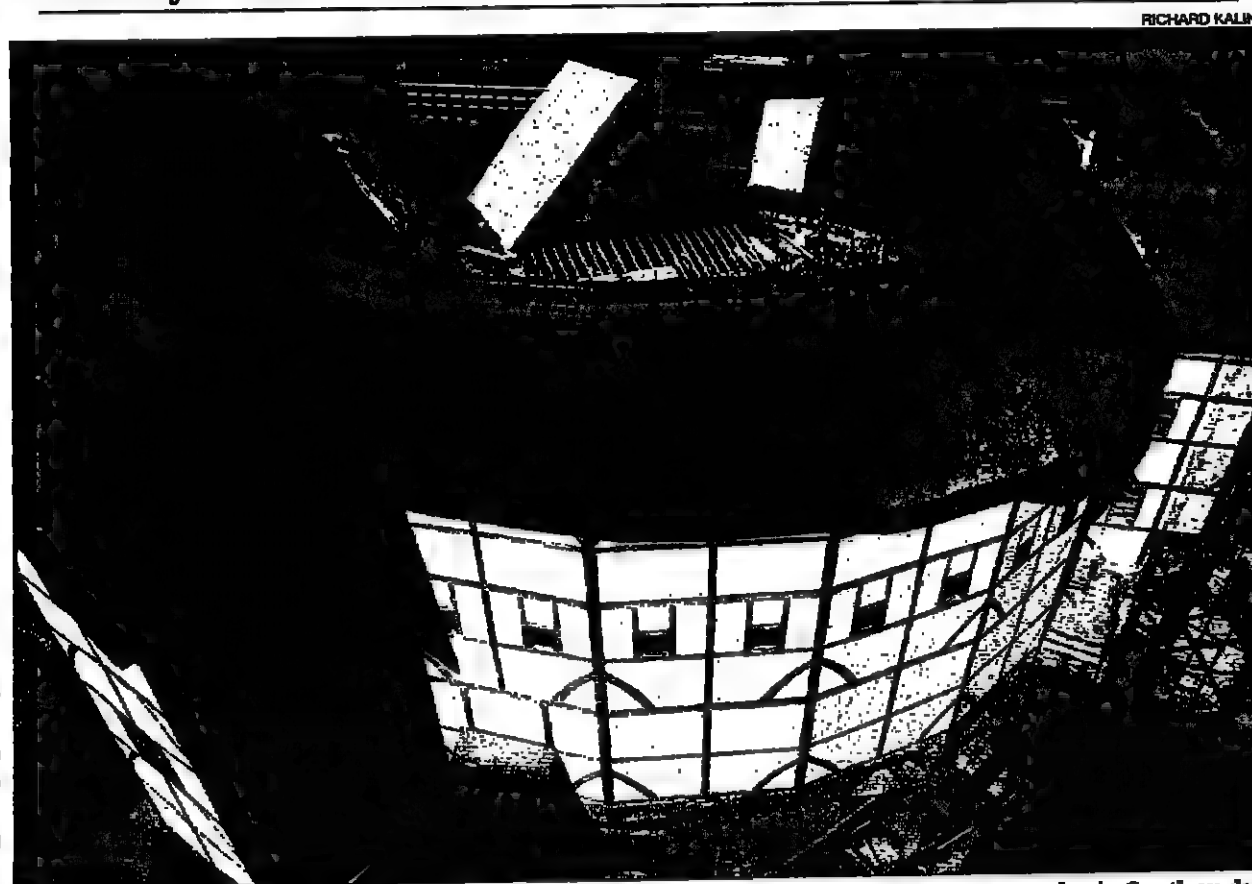
In implicitly giving us that permission, Sarah Johnson subtly persuades us to reject physically punishing our children. With that one phrase, "but that seems to be the way we are", we resolve to try never to smack again. That is quite an achievement — to nudge parents towards self-knowledge and changed behaviour.

But what will make this book a boon for parents is the practical advice — how to encourage a responsible child through personal maintenance, basic tidying, household responsibilities, meal times and special jobs, from very young up to the age of ten; what precautions to take if you have to leave your child home alone; useful addresses categorised by subject such as Toys and Play, Thinking and Talking and Bereavement.

Were my own sons not 30, 28, 25 and 22, I would fly to this book for sage advice; well — as a grandparent — perhaps...

MIRIAM STOPPARD

## Anthony Holden on Sam Wanamaker's magnificent, lifelong obsession



One man's dream: the reconstructed Globe theatre will be the centre of a Shakespeare complex in Southwark

## All his world was a stage

WHEN the American actor Sam Wanamaker first came to London in 1949, an outspoken liberal fleeing the wrath of Senator McCarthy, he headed straight for the south bank of the Thames to seek out the British shrine to his idol, William Shakespeare.

Familiar with his countrymen's attempts in Chicago, Ohio and elsewhere to recreate the Globe theatre, Shakespeare's "Wooden O", Wanamaker was anxious to see how much better the Brits had managed it in Southwark. All he found, to his astonished dismay, was a barren wasteland — adorned only, amid the graffiti, by a rusting plaque on the wall of a makeshift car park.

From that moment, Wanamaker made it his life's mission to amend what he rightly

■ THIS WOODEN O  
By Barry Day  
Oberon Books, £19.99  
ISBN 1 870259 49 1

regarded as a scandalous omission by his adopted country. For 20 years, as he pursued his career and raised his family, he talked about it incessantly — to the point where his brother, a Chicago doctor, finally told him to shut up and do something.

That took the next 20 years. The foundations had at last been laid by the time Wanamaker's death in 1993 robbed him of the chance to see his

dream eventually realised. This is the heroic story of those fraught decades, when Wanamaker and a changing succession of equally obsessive allies took on the combined forces of inertia, philistinism, Establishment indifference and bureaucratic bloody-mindedness to build the handsome Elizabethan theatre which now stands on the site, soon to be in business, supposedly the heart of a mammoth Shakespeare complex by the turn of the millennium.

It is told in detail meticulous to a degree, which part exasperates, part enrages. If Wanamaker could not have had a more devoted chronicler than Barry Day, he might have hoped for a less prolix, more literate one. The number of sentences which end in ellipses left me constantly wanting to hurl the book out the window, then thinking better — for its hero's sake rather than his author's.

For this is a story which demands to be told, an aptly chaotic monument to a noble American visionary who did for Britain in four decades what Shakespeare's own countrymen had shamefully failed to achieve over four centuries.

Editorially, the book may be as much of a shambles as the tale it tells; but both, at least, are redeemed by happy endings.

## A nostalgic autobiography by Paddington's creator

## The bear facts of life

MICHAEL BOND is the creator of Paddington, the most famous fictional bear since Winnie the Pooh. Although in the jacket photograph Bond looks slap up to date in his redish trenchcoat, he was born in 1926, a year that has already acquired the sepia tinge of history, being the year of the first talking picture and of the first British general strike.

Somewhat, in this gently meandering memoir, Bond makes most of the events in his life seem like happenings in a long-distant past. Perhaps his old-fashioned writing style has something to do with it — he is often "thrown in at the deep end" or meeting people in whom "there undoubtedly lurked a heart of gold". Or perhaps it is because the world has changed so much in the past three decades that it is hard to imagine that the 1950s occurred within living memory.

As recently as 1956, Bond revealed, no television programmes were transmitted for an hour in the early evening, the so-called "Toddler's Truth" to allow parents to put their children to bed.

Bond, brought up in Reading, was a watchful, self-absorbed only child who played endlessly with his marionette theatre, liked taking things to pieces to see how they worked and was besotted



Paddington: the most famous bear since Winnie the Pooh

■ BEARS AND FOREBEARS: A LIFE SO FAR  
By Michael Bond  
HarperCollins, £18  
ISBN 0 0025704 5

by the movies. After a rather uneventful war, he became a BBC cameraman, while starting to write stories and articles, including a series on scooters for the *Manchester Guardian*.

A Bear Called Paddington was published in 1958, the appealing and harmless little animal inspired by a toy bear which Bond had given to his wife at the time and the memory of evacuee children wearing labels around their necks. The Browns, the family

who gave Paddington a home, were based on Bond's own parents, timorous, rigid in outlook and utterly decent.

Bond's autobiography is rich in anecdote about the early days of television, the merchandising and marketing of Paddington Bear and Bond's sexual awakening, which he lingers over with a quite smug relish.

For years now, Bond has been a worldly sophisticated and Francophile gourmet but something remains in him of the unworried young boy, going to Reading station to watch the Cheltenham Flyer thunder through, making him endearingly Footieish.

PENNY PERRICK

## In an age of daemons

LYRA BEKACQUA is an unusual child: "half-wild, half-civilised", with no knowledge of her parentage, she has been left to live among the unworried scholars of Jordan College, Oxford.

Lyra's Oxford is almost recognisable — crusty dons, private common rooms, bitter in-fighting and rampant sexism. But the emphasis on cosmology and "anbarology", and the worries about the Tartar's invasion of the frozen north, are the first indicators that her universe is not quite our own. Indeed, she lives in "Brytain", where the currency is gold dollars and fear stalks in the form of "the gobblers", who spirit children away to who knows where.

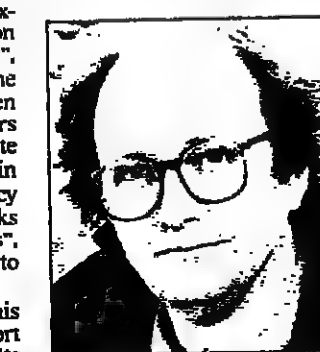
Philip Pullman has set this fantasy for teenagers in a sort of contemporary Dark Age. Its characters can both enjoy the trappings of 20th-century life, as well as search for other worlds and converse with witches. But Pullman's best creation are the daemons.

In his world, the difference between humans and animals is not language — Lyra has many a chat with a multilingual polar bear; it is that every human is protected by his or her own daemon, in the shape of an animal, without which a person cannot survive.

Lyra's adventure begins when she discovers that her natural mother is the chief

■ HIS DARK MATERIALS — NORTHERN LIGHTS  
By Philip Pullman  
Point, £12.99  
ISBN 0 590 54178 1

"gobbler", sending the stolen children north to have experiments done to them and their daemons. When her father



Pullman: magical fantasy

and her best friend disappear as well, she is off to the Arctic — the land of king bears, witches, mysterious "Dust" and the dazzling Aurora.

*Northern Lights* has won the Carnegie Medal and the Guardian Prize for children's fiction, and enjoyed commercial success in America. It is the first part of a trilogy, but the author has said that the second will be set in our universe. After this magical tale, that can only be a let-down.

GILL HORNBY

## NEW IN PAPERBACK



Rushdie: intricate prose jewelled with haunting images

## ■ THE MOOR'S LAST SIGH

By Salman Rushdie  
Vintage, £6.99  
ISBN 0 09 959241 X

SET largely in India, Rushdie's dynastic saga about the dethroned Zogobys is narrated by one of their nearly-extinct clan. The Moor (a nickname for Moraes) is in exile, fleeing assassination. Approaching his last gasp, he nails onto doors the tale of his family's fall, himself somewhere between Lucifer and a persecuted non-religious Luther.

This novel, while autobiographically allusive, has epic sweep. Rushdie's depiction of the Subcontinent is full of echoes of Dante, Greek myths, Shakespeare's tragedies. With a hint of Hollywood, the Moor's story spans four generations, telling of fortunes made and

lost, scandals and suicides, of love-matches crossing class and Catholic-Jewish boundaries, of household schisms. Domestic affairs mingle with world events. The Moor's grandsons are imprisoned for opposing colonial rule.

Embodying India's cultural complexity, Rushdie's prose is an intricate, polyglot pastiche of styles from Biblical to pidgin English. Sometimes the rhymes and puns can seem strained. Rambling sentences may reflect the protagonist's lunatic and mentally confused state, but they can be a slog to follow. That said, this book is jewelled with humorous and haunting images. A bridegroom slips into his spouse's wedding dress and rows away. India is celebrated, mocked and mourned in all its rich sprawl.

## ■ A PHILOSOPHICAL INVESTIGATION

By Philip Kerr  
Vintage, £5.99  
ISBN 0 09 973641 1

CHIEF Inspector Jakowicz finds that her murder investigation takes on the aspect of a philosophical enquiry. Her man, code-named Wittgenstein, is as clinical in the dispatch of his victims. A hybrid work that mixes crime with ideas and dystopia to form something slightly less than a perfect synthesis. The central concept is inspired and the narrative taut, but overall there is a tendency to posture rather than postulate.

## ■ AGE AND GUILT

By P.J. O'Rourke  
Pionard, £6.99  
ISBN 0 330 34801 9

SATIRICAL journalist P.J. O'Rourke has herded together a collection of his scribbles spanning the last 25 years. The author adopts a self-mocking stance charting his career rise from crazed underground publications. He throws in hoax foreign correspondence from Nixon's tour of China; a droll "performance art review" of the train ride to Penn Station, and some shamelessly awful poems. His tale *The Ghosts of Responsibility* about young love lost is tender while his ruminations on the meaning of golf are absurd and sage.

## ■ CAESAR

By Christian Meier  
Fontana, £9.99  
ISBN 0 00 68349 3

A BIOGRAPHY of Caesar in the modern sense is impossible, since there is so much about his personal life that we can never know. His contemporaries certainly left some telling impressions of this ruthless operator. In this absorbing book Prof. Meier builds up a picture of the world in which a young aristocrat like Caesar grew up, showing how it influenced a man whose originality and ambition won spectacular victories for Rome but also plunged it into civil war.



## ■ FLESH AND BLOOD

By Michael Cunningham  
Penguin, £6.99  
ISBN 0 14 02444 4

WHEN Constantine and Mary Stassos first marry, they believe they can find their share of the American Dream. But as nuclear family values disintegrate in the face of the 20th century, their lives sour. Their three children cannot escape "the net of harms woven by their father and mother." Cunningham's unusual breadth of sympathy takes him to the heart of family life, moving easily from a father's overbearing demands to a son's coming to terms with his homosexuality, a daughter's rebellion or a mother's growing understanding. A stirring and unflinching novel of contemporary mores.

Contributors: Kate Bassett, Fiona Hook, Ariadne Birnberg, Hazel Leslie, Fanny Blake.



## ■ HEDDINGHAM HARVEST

By Geoffrey Robinson  
Constable, £9.95  
ISBN 0 09 476600 2

LONG gone are the days of bull-baiting, rabbit-catching, blackbird-hunting or lark-shooting. But in this rollicking family memoir of Victorian rural England these and other pastimes are revived with relish as "the level of rural fornication and adultery" where "the hedgerows, woods, barns and even bedrooms heaved with both to a degree that is not normally associated with the adjective 'Victorian'." A Lincolnshire village, Heddingham, and its people are enthusiastically resurrected in this vivid piece of social history which documents a kind of paradise lost.



## GOING OUT

## CHILDREN

**LONDON**  
**Children's Quiz**  
 Eight year olds and under are invited to bring a pencil for a tour around the Gallery Collection. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-839 3321). Today, phone for details: free.

**Children's Summer Funfair**  
 Featuring a mini helter-skelter ride and bouncy castle for youngsters. Alexandra Park, Wood Green, N22. Today, tomorrow, midday-7pm; free.

**From Fisticuffs to Swords**  
 A film workshop for eight-year-olds to adult. Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (0171-600 3699). Tomorrow, 12.45pm, 2pm and 3.30pm; £3.50, child £1.75.

**Funny Bones**  
 Pandemonium strikes in Ghost Town for ages six to 11. Havill Hall, Havill Street, SE5 (0171-708 5401). Today, 11.30am and 2.30pm; £4, child £3.

**Lambeth Country Show**  
 Featuring music, dance, farm animals and a funfair. Brockwell Park, SE24 (0171-926 9340). Today and tomorrow, 10.30am-6.30pm; free.

**Storytelling Workshops**  
 Six- to 14-year-olds are invited to participate in a workshop exploring loyalty between friends and brave tales of travellers, led by Vetta Alexis. British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (0171-412 7797). Tomorrow, 3pm-4.30pm; free.

**The Wonderland Adventures of Alice**  
 Spectacular summer show

with comic characters, presented by London Bubble. Valentines Park, Uxbridge, Essex. Cranbrook Road, Uxbridge, Essex (0171-237 1663). Today, 7.30pm, tomorrow, 5.30pm; £10, concs £6.

**Zippo's Circus**  
 All-new circus. Horses are the only animals included. Barking Road Recreation Ground, E6 (0374-811811). Today, 2.30pm, 5pm and 7.30pm, tomorrow 11am and 2.30pm; £4.50-£8.50, child £3.50-£7.50.

**REGIONAL**  
**BELEAST**  
 The Portrush Flyer Journey from Belfast to the Portrush seaside in a delightful steam train. Belfast Central Railway Station, (01960 353 567). Today, departs Belfast 9.05am, arrives Portrush midday; departs Portrush 4.45pm, arrives Belfast 7.30pm; £15, concs £9 (booking: 01960 344 566/fax 350 350).

**CRAIGAVON**  
 Vikings and Pirates A mixed bag of treats in this adventure excursion, including face-painting on board the boat, plus games, a treasure hunt and a tour around Coney Island. Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Oxford Island, (01762 322 205). Today, 11am-4pm; advance booking essential, phone for details.

**GUILDFORD**  
 Moscow State Circus The very best in circus entertainment from the acclaimed company. No animals. Stoke Park, (0421 565 557). Today, ends tomorrow, 2pm and 5pm; prices

range from £20-£6, phone for further details.

**LEIDS**  
**Dance Workshop**  
 Toe-tap, salsa and boogie your way through a range of dance styles. Eight- to 13-year-olds. Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Chapelown Road (0113 262 5359). Today, 9.30am-2.30pm; admission 50p.

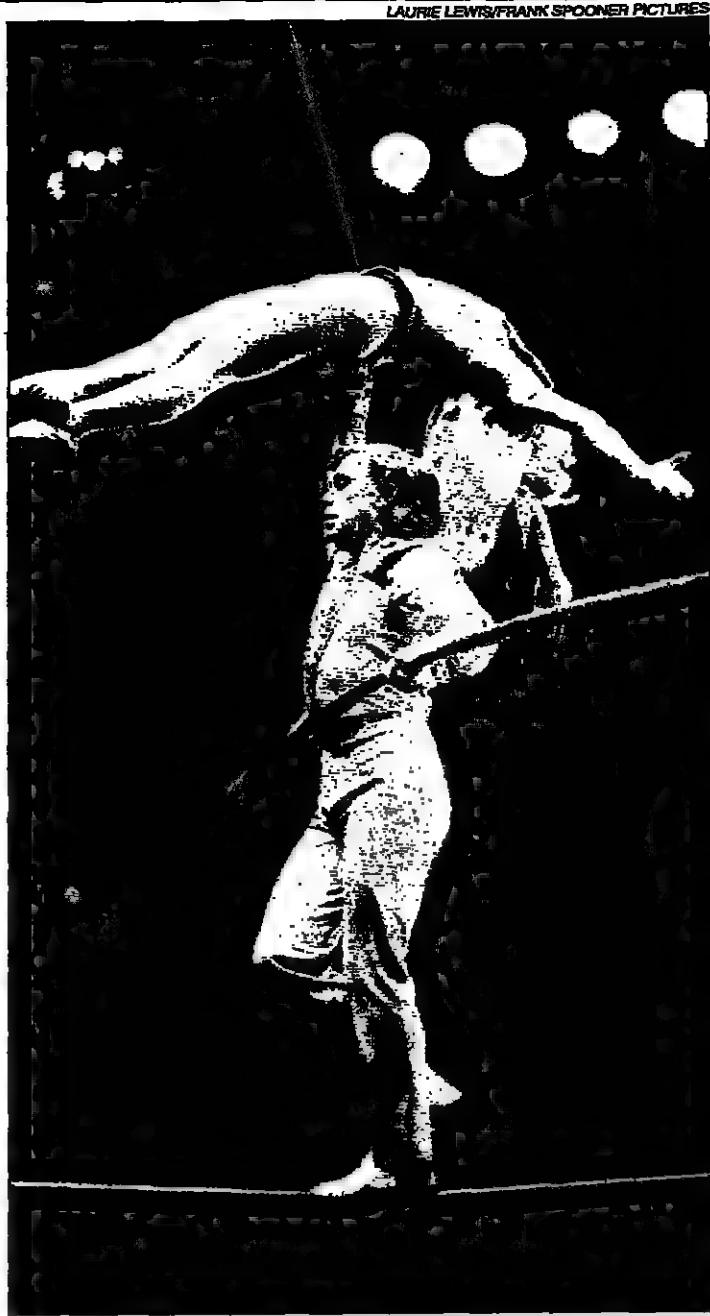
**LEIDS**  
 Rhythms of the City Special children's activities include a bouncy castle and a craft corner. Rhythms of the City Festival, Various venues (0113 244 2111). Today, tomorrow, times vary, phone for details; free.

**MANCHESTER**  
 Vivid Eleven- to 16-year-olds are invited to learn all about art. Cornerhouse, Oxford Street (0161-228 2463). Today, 11.30am; £2.

**NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE**  
 Children's Gallery Interactive games, art and toys for the under fives. Laing Art Gallery, Higham Place (0191-232 7734). Today, 10am-5pm, tomorrow, 2pm-5pm; free.

**SHEFFIELD**  
 Festival Stalls, entertainers and games. Various venues (0114 281 4050). Ends today, phone for details.

**WOKING**  
 The Wind in the Willows Adapted by Alan Bennett from the classic tale. New Victoria Theatre, Peacock Centre (0483 761 144). Ends tonight, 8pm; £9-£22.50.



Guilford: walking the tightrope in the Moscow State Circus

## CLASSICAL

**LONDON**  
 Black and Classic/Herbert Featuring Stabat Mater by Pergolesi and Buxtehude's Laudate Pueri Dominum. St James's Church, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-437 5053). Tonight, 7.30pm; £12.50.

**Dmitri Alexeev**  
 Ten waltzes are among the highlights in a Chopin recital. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm; £8-£16.

**English Chamber Orchestra/Heath**  
 Handel's Water Music and Schubert's Fifth Symphony as part of an 80th birthday concert for Sir Edward Heath. Kenwood, Hampstead Lane, NW3 (0171-413 1443). Tonight, 7.30pm; £10.50 and £13.50, concs £8.50.

**CRITIC'S CHOICE**  
**CHELTEMHAM FINALE**  
 The Cheltenham Music Festival ends this weekend with recitals in the Pittville Pump Room by three of Britain's finest women soloists. The soprano Joan Rodgers gives the professional premiere of Michael Berkeley's Songs for Children in an otherwise 19th-century song programme this morning (11am). And there is another world premiere tonight, when Imogen Cooper plays Thomas Adès's new piano work, Traced Overhead, in a concert that also includes Haydn, Schumann and Bartok. Tomorrow, at 11am, Emma Kirkby brings her matchless early music vocal artistry to bear on a programme of consort songs stretching from the 16th to the 20th century.

**RICHARD MORRISON**  
 Various venues, Cheltenham Festival box office (01242 227 979).



London: Sir Edward Heath is the conductor at Kenwood

**Piers Lane**  
 The Third Sonata, waltzes and mazurkas are included in this all-Chopin recital. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tomorrow, 11.30am; £7.

**REGIONAL**  
**BIRMINGHAM**  
 London Concert Orchestra/Wayne Griffiths Amongst the popular favourites included in this classical gala is Grieg's Piano Concerto. Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm; £5-£22.50.

**CAMBRIDGE**  
 Britten Sinfonia/Cleobury Paying tribute to Gerhard, performing his Piano and Harpsichord Concertos and Falla's El Amor Brujo. West Road Concert Hall, University of Cambridge (01223-504 444). Tonight, 8pm; £12, concs £6.

## POP

## CRITIC'S CHOICE

**ALAN STIVELL**  
 With popular interest in Celtic music at an all-time peak, the Breton singer and harp player Alan Stivell pays a timely visit to promote his album *Brian Boru*. A fusion of traditional sounds (bagpipes, flute, whistle and Celtic harp) with the more strident tones of electric guitar and synthesizer, this latest batch of songs originate from Ireland, Scotland and Wales as well as France. Stivell's arrangements couch such celebrated melodies as *Mairi's Wedding* and *Lands of My Fathers* in a modern rock idiom while taking care to preserve the spirit that gave these songs such enduring appeal in the first place.

**DAVID SINCLAIR**  
*Barbican Centre*, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm; £7.50-£12.50.

**LONDON**  
 A Day for Tibet Sinead O'Connor, Trilok Gurtu and John Etheridge and Andy Summers are among those playing in this concert to raise awareness of occupied Tibet. Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, N22 (0171-383 7533). Today, midday-7pm; £10, children £5.



London: Alan Stivell

**Croydon Folk and Blues Festival**  
 Bert Jansch, Beverley Martyn, Spoonful Blues (today), Wizz Jones, John Pearson Trio, David Hughes with Gerry Conway (tomorrow). Croydon Clocktower, Brighthelm Hall, Katherine Street, Croydon (0181-253 1030). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm; £5.

**Gabrielle**  
 British soul singer continues her month-long Sunday night residency. Ronnie Scott's, Frith Street, W1 (0171-439 0747). Tomorrow, 8pm; £8.50.

**TUC Respect Festival**  
 Free festival with headliners Incognito, Gregory Isaacs, Dreadzone, Chumbawamba and Credit to the Nation. Finsbury Park, N4 (0171-467 1287). Tonight, midday-9pm; free.

**Tina Turner**  
 Rock's glamorous granny on stage.

**Wembley Stadium**, Empire Way (0181-900 1234). Today, 4pm, tomorrow, 3.30pm; £25-£30.

**Hukwe Zawose and the Wagogo Drummers**  
 Traditional music of Tanzania. Watermans Arts Centre, Brentford High Street (0181-568 1176). Tonight, 10.30pm; £8-£9.

**REGIONAL**  
**CAMBRIDGE**  
 Cowboy Junkies Ambient folk and country rock from the Canadian Timmins siblings. Corn Exchange, Wheeler Street (01223-357 851). Tonight, 7.30pm; £10.50-£12.50.

**CARLISLE**  
 Brampton Live Folk festival which includes such groups as Caravan, New Bushy Mountain, Daredevil, Big Jig (today), Steeleye Span, Shogun, Kristina Olsen (tomorrow). William Howard Centre, Brampton (01228-512 444). Today, 1.30pm, tomorrow, 12.30pm; prices vary.

**EDINBURGH**  
 Soma Diabate Guinean singer and guitarist from the all-female group Les Amazones de Guinée. Fruitmarket Gallery, Market Street (0131-225 2353). Tonight, 9pm; £4.50, concs £2.50.

**GILLINGHAM**  
 Parklife Acid jazz quartet the James Taylor Quartet lead a festival of local bands. Gillingham Park, Canterbury Street (01634-282 618). Today, midday-10.30pm; free.

**GLASGOW**  
 Bryan Adams, Del Amitri, Melissa Etheridge, Ricky Ross Mainstream rock from the now officially huge Adams and some like-minded souls. Ibrox Stadium, Edmiston Drive (0141-427 8500). Today, 2pm; £23.

**Elvis Costello and the Attractions**  
 The New Wave intellectual plays his new album, *All That Useless Beauty*, with his original backing band. Barrowland, Gallowgate (0141-552 4601). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £14.

**Nell Young and Crazy Horse**  
 Just a quick stop-off by the country-rock and grunge original, playing his latest album entitled *Broken Arrow*. Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, (0141-248 9999). Today, 6.30pm; £21-£23.50.

**LIVERPOOL**  
 Elvis Costello and the Attractions See Glasgow. Royal Court, Roe Street (0151-709 4321). Today, 7.30pm; £11.50-£12.50.

**NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE**  
 Boyzone Irish teenage boy band. Newcastle Arena, Neville Street (0191-401 8000). Today, 6.30pm; £12.50.

**READING**  
 Woman Festival With Thomas Mapfumo and Miriam Unlimited, the Mighty Diamonds, Banco De Gaia, Kall, Banyumas Bamboo Gamelan (today), Ng La Banda, Remmy Ongala, Dreadzone, Barenaked Ladies, Wagogo Women's Drum and Dance Ensemble, Jackie Leven, Mayte Martin and N'Java (tomorrow). Rivermead, Richfield Avenue (01734 591 591). Today, tomorrow; £50, day tickets £22.

**SHEFFIELD**  
 Boyzone See Newcastle upon Tyne. Sheffield Arena, Broughton Lane (0114-256 5650). Tomorrow, 6.30pm; £12.50.

**Music in the Sun**  
 Rock and reggae from Longpigs, Blameless, Kenickie, Jazz Jamaica (today), Frankie Paul, the Mighty Diamonds, Zion Train (tomorrow). Don Valley Grass Bowl, (0114-275 4504). Today, tomorrow, 2pm-midnight; free.

**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON**  
 Phoenix With Bjork, Massive Attack, Cypress Hill, Skunk Anansie, Shed Seven, Mazy Star, Grant Lee Buffalo, Goldie, US3 (today), the Sex Pistols, Terrorvision, Echobelly, Marion, Coolio, Reef, the Chemical Brothers, Spooky, James Taylor Quartet (tomorrow). Long Marston Airfield, (0171-344 0044). Today, tomorrow, 10am; £65, day tickets £25.

## JAZZ

**CRITIC'S CHOICE**  
**MARY CLEERE HARAN**  
 One of the classicists of New York cabaret singers, Mary Cleere Haran celebrates the songs of Rodgers and Hart in her debut residency in London. Always ready with a subtle one-liner, Haran revisits the ghosts of Tin Pan Alley with the help of her accompanist and arranger, the multi-talented Richard Rodney Bennett. CLIVE DAVIS

**Pizza on the Park**  
 Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273). Tonight, 9.15pm and 11.15pm; £18.

**LONDON**  
 Marquee Gilmore's Drum FM with Graham Haynes American drummer leads a live jazz-jungle session featuring cryptic New York trumpeter Graham Haynes and African percussionist Andy Moses. Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 8pm; £10.

**Weldon Irvine**  
 Soul-jazz survivor from the 1960s, best known for his rare groove classics such as *Walk That Walk and Talk That Talk*. Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tonight, 7pm; £12, adv £10.



Christchurch: George Melly

**Peter King**  
 Dazzling bebop altoist. Bull's Head, Lonsdale Road, SW13 (0181-876 5241). Tonight, 8pm; £6.

**Art Porter, Tony O'Malley Quartet**  
 Oddball tenor saxophonist from Arkansas, with support from soul-jazz singer O'Malley. Ronnie Scott's, Frith Street, W1 (0171-439 0747). Tonight, 9pm; £12.

**Don Weller**  
 Serpentine tenor saxophonist veteran. 606 Club, Lonsdale Road, SW13 (0181-876 5241). Tonight, 10pm; £4.50.

**BIRMINGHAM**  
 Lou Dalgleish Poetic, gravel-voiced chanteuse. Mac, Cannon Hill Park (0121-440 3838). Tonight, 7.30pm; £7.

**CHESTER**  
 Raw Stylus London funk team. Telfords Warehouse, Tower Wharf (01244-390 090). Tonight, 8.30pm; £4.

**CHICHESTER**  
 Tim Whitehead Quartet Fiery fusion and hard bop tenorist features blind pianist Pete Jacobsen. Bull's Head Hotel, Royal Parade (01243-467 1727). Tomorrow, 8pm; £6.

**CHRISTCHURCH**  
 George Melly The pantomime dame of traditional jazz hits the road. Regent, Christchurch High Street (01202-479 819). Tomorrow, 8pm; £5.50, £7.50.

**LEIDS**  
 Negroe Latin-jazz octet fusing Uruguayan Candombe and Brazilian rhythms. The Yardbird Suite Jazz Club, The Underground, 7 & C Club, Cookridge Street (0113-

230 2669). Tonight, 8.30pm; £5.

**TAUNTON**  
 Elaine Delmar American singer salutes Porter and Gershwin. Brewhouse, Coal Orchard (01823-283 244). Tonight, 7.45pm; £8.

**WELWYN GARDEN CITY**  
 Scott Hamilton with the Mike Carr Trio US tenorist John British veteran Carr. Fairway Suite, Old Hens Lane (01438-717 997). Tomorrow, 8pm; £8.

## FILMS

Films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country

**CRITIC'S CHOICE**  
 ♦ **THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS** (15) Short, dark and dumpy Janeane Garofalo gets tail, blonde and lissom Uma Thurman to be her stand-in for a romance with Ben Chaplin (another British actor conquering American hearts).

Romantic comedy with no surprises but plenty of pleasant humour, directed by Michael Lehmann. ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) Odeon Kensington (01426-914 666) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) Screen on Baker Street (0171-935 2772) Screen on the Hill (0171-435 3366) Virgins: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Haymarket (0171-639 1527) Warner West End (0171-437 4343)

**GOFF BROWN**  
 ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) Odeon Kensington (01426-914 666) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) Screen on Baker Street (0171-935 2772) Screen on the Hill (0171-435 3366) Virgins: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Haymarket (0171-639 1527) Warner West End (0171-437 4343)

**COMEDY**  
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 SHORT BAC AND SIDES Pip Edinburgh Festival fans to the post. Comics are now limbering up on the London Fringe before the mighty Scottish bash. The Battersea Arts Centre will be swarming with stand-ups from Monday on. Shows worth a peep include the savagely witty Greg Proops and the *Fist of Fun* lads Lee and Herring. Also the nicely droll Dominic Holland, the madcap Mel and Sue and that clever beanpole Ben Moor.



London: Cats and Dogs

**NEW RELEASES**  
 ♦ **LES APPRENTIS** (15) Meandering adventures of French layabouts. Weak comedy by Pierre Salvadori, with François Cluzet and Guillaume Depardieu. ABC Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470) MGM Trocadero (0171-434 0031)

♦ **HAPPY GILMORE** (12) Blue-collar guy hits the golf links. So-so vehicle for a grating television comic, Adam Sandler. MGM Trocadero (0171-434 0031) Plaza (0800-888 997) Warner (0171-437 4343)

**HUSTLER WHITE** (18) Adventures of male hustlers on Santa Monica Boulevard. Unappealing.

ICA Cinema (0171-930 3647)

**THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME** (U) Victor Hugo meets the Disney animators. A perverse mix of the cuddly and downbeat. Barbican (0171-638 8891) Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) MGMs Baker Street (0171-935 9772) Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Odeons Leicester Square (01426-915 683) Swiss Cottage (01426-914 098) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) UCI Whiteleys (0990 888 990) Virgin Fulham Road (0171-370 2636)

**KINGPIN** (12) Unfunny comedy about hustlers on the road, with Woody Harrison, Randy Quaid and Bill Murray. MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Odeons Kensington (01426-914 666) Swiss Cottage (0171-586 3057) West End (01426-915 574) UCI Whiteleys (0990 888 990)

**THE ROCK** (18) Belligerent action movie set on Alcatraz, with Nicolas Cage, Sean Connery and Ed Harris. Director, Michael Bay. MGMs Baker Street (0171-935 9772) Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Odeons Kensington (01426-914 666) Swiss Cottage (0171-586 3057) West End (01426-915 574) UCI Whiteleys (0990 888 990) Virgin Fulham Road (0171-370 2636)

**COMEDY**  
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**KATE BASSETT**  
 Battersea Arts Centre, Leicester Hill, Battersea (0171-223 2223). Phone for details.

**LONDON**  
 Banana Cabaret With Dan Evans, Tim Clark, Otis Cannelloni and Kevin Kopstein. Banana Cabaret, The Bedford, Bedford Hill, SW12 (0181-675 1756). Tonight, 9pm; £6.

**Edinburgh Preview 1**  
 Can't Believe It's Not the Butter Factor. Comic sketches from the Cheese Collective. King's Head, Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916). Tomorrow, 8pm; £5.

**Comedy Store Players**  
 Mainstream television personality line-up including Josie Lawrence, Paul Merton and Lee Simpson. Comedy Store.

Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426-914 433). Tomorrow, 8pm; £10.

**Downstairs at the King's Head**  
 Huw Thomas MCs for Paul Zenon, Jolo Smith and Johnathon Paylor. Downstairs at the King's Head, Crouch End Hill, N8 (0181-340 1028). Tonight, 8.30pm; £4.50, concs £3.50.

**East Dulwich Tavern**  
 Edinburgh Preview Featuring Demina and Djalili and Steve Brody. East Dulwich Tavern, Lordship Lane, SE22 (0181-299 4138). Tonight, 9pm; £5.

**Edinburgh Preview: Jenny Elcarr**  
 Top Brit bleached-blond comedian dishing out the dirt. Pleasance London (above Shillbears Brasserie Bar), Carpenters Mews, North Road, N7 (0171-609 1800). Tonight, 10pm; £6.

**Gigglefest - Edinburgh Preview Season**  
 The world according to Lenny Beige. The Hen and Chickens Theatre Bar, St Paul's Road, N1 (0171-704 2001). Tonight, 9.30pm; £5, concs £4.

**Jongleurs Camden**  
 Jeff Green, John Mann, Paul B. Edwards and Sean Mc. The Tracey Brothers MC. Jongleurs Comedy Camden Lock, Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-924 2766). Tonight, 7.15pm and 11.15pm; £10.

**Edinburgh Preview: Making Sunday Special**  
 The highly successful Girls with Big Jests in a new show. Windblown Studio, The Broadway, SW19 (0181-542 6141). Tomorrow, 8pm; £5, concs £4.

**Channel 4 Sitcom Festival: Week 2**  
 Bleeding Heats by Andy Riley and Kevin Cecil, Paul Shearer and Lenny Barker's Last Legs and The Magnificent Andersons by Diana Fox and David Upsher. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (0181-741 2255). Tonight, 8pm; £7.50.

**Up the Creek: Benefit**  
 Jo Brand, plus Malcolm Hardee and Ricky Grover. Up the Creek, Creek Road, SE10 (0181-858 4881). Tomorrow, 9pm; £6.

**REGIONAL**  
**MANCHESTER**  
 Frog and Bucket Comedy Club Featuring Ali Jay, Kevin Hayes and Tony Burgess. Frog and Bucket, Newton Street (0161-636 9805). Tonight, 8.30pm; £4.

## FAIRS SHOWS

**LONDON**  
 Spitalfields Community Festival Established event with a multicultural focus. Spitalfields Market, Brushfield Street, E1 (0171-375 0441). Tomorrow, 11am-5pm; free.

**REGIONAL**  
**CHEPSTOW**  
 Chepstow Festival 96 Carnival, sports, a beer fest, visual art shows. Weekend highlight is the *Son et Lumière*. Festival Office, Various venues (01291-621 399). Today, 11am-midnight, tomorrow, 2pm-midnight; day events, free, *Son et Lumière*, £7.50.



Henley: Thames Boat Rally

**GALWAY**  
 Galway Arts Festival Daytime street performances, music from the Sawdoctors and Kaddish, who explore the Holocaust. Various venues (00353 91 583 800). Today, tomorrow, phone for details.

**HENLEY**  
 Traditional Boat Rally Mess about in boats: skiffs, gigs, punts, launches, canoes, jazz band, boat jumble, period costume. Fawley Meadow, Henley-on-Thames (01932-231 305). Today and tomorrow; £5 a day, or two-day ticket £9, child £1.

**IRVINESTOWN**  
 Lady of the Lake Festival Day of the lake festival bands and the Heineken worst singer competition. Ulster Lakeland Equestrian Park and venues. (01365-323 110/621 919). Today, 10am-midnight, ends tomorrow, 11am-8.30pm; phone for details.

**ST ALBANS**  
 St Albans Festival Highlight of week-long fest is the English Civil War Battle. Also concerts, circus acts, walks and talks. St Albans Festival, (01727-844 222). Today, tomorrow, English Civil War Battle, 3pm; £3.

**WELLINGBOROUGH**  
 Bug Jam Volkswagen festival, drag racing, car displays. Santa Pod Raceway, Airfield Road (01234-782 828). Today, ends tomorrow; weekend, £24, tomorrow, £11.

## RELIGION

## CRITIC'S CHOICE

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the monthly repayment is £109.38 and the total amount payable is £5,250.24.



AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES READER PROMOTION

# Take a child to the zoo - FREE

## Buy one adult ticket and a child goes free

The Times, in association with The Federation of Zoos, gives you the opportunity to take a child free when you spend a fun day at the zoo.

There are 41 locations to choose from and you can save up to £6 on the cost of entry. You can take advantage of this offer any day from next Wednesday, July 24 until August 31, with the exception of Bank Holiday Monday, August 26.

Visiting a zoo today is an exciting experience for a child. At the Lakeland Wildlife Oasis, Cumbria, for instance, children can handle iguanas, drape snakes around their necks and even have giant, hairy Shelob, the tarantula spider, creeping across their hand as fruitbats fly around their heads. They can also scramble underneath the meerkats' sand pit enclosure to pop up, protected under a perspex dome, to meet the cheeky, inquisitive creatures face to face.

Besides touching the (for some of us) untouchable, at Edinburgh children can examine skins, skulls and bones on the touch tables. And at 2pm every day the penguins there come out to stroll around the lawn amongst the visitors.

Nearly rubbing noses with an American alligator - safely behind a toughened glass screen - is one of the favourite attractions at Thrigby Hall, near Great Yarmouth. This is typical of the imaginative way in which today's zoos introduce children to wild and dangerous animals.

At the Manor House Wildlife and Leisure Park, Pembrokeshire, children are allowed to help the keepers



Children can eyeball the American alligator at Thrigby Hall, Great Yarmouth

bottle feed young animals. They also learn how eggs hatch and watch the young birds emerge from their shells in an incubator.

Although just gazing at animals through fencing or glass is fascinating, most zoos offer much, much more than that nowadays.

Children can enjoy talks by the animals' knowledgeable keepers and ply them with questions; listen to exciting stories about animals; watch videos explaining all about animal habits and habitats; join in teddy bears' picnics; find out about the mysterious and threatened world of rainforests; or weave their way through a Darwin maze where the famous naturalist's theory of evolution comes to life.

At Bristol Zoo there is a new invertebrate house where, among the many special experiences, is one not to be missed - locusts swarming

around you.

The Chestnut Centre, set in the hills of the Peak District National Park, houses Europe's largest collection of otters and owls, including Britain's only pair of giant otters. You can meander through historic wooded parkland to watch the otters and owls in their award-winning enclosures in near natural surroundings.

And, of course, there is the chance to adopt an animal, a popular partnership which gives joy as well as education to children for years and helps to support breeding programmes for endangered species.

All the zoos participating in our offer have facilities for picnics or a choice of restaurants, souvenir shops and children's play areas. They also have special events such as the Kids Paradise Day on July 28 at Paradise Park, Hayle, near St Ives, so it is

worth calling to check what's on.

The Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland is a charity, established in 1966, which represents the interests of 60 zoological and wildlife collections.

Its members support work in the wild and raise money for field projects: in the last six years they have supported 69 programmes in 36 different countries. They carry out scientific research, particularly with endangered species, and scientifically-managed breeding programmes.

Their conservation projects are not exclusively targeted at exotic species. Currently they are involved in recovery programmes for British species such as the red squirrel, otter, Scottish wildcat, sand lizard, field cricket and several species of moth.

All Federation zoos have some form of education programme which rely on the zoo's greatest asset - the living animal. And the Federation has always been involved in animal welfare issues. One of its first aims was to establish principles of animal management and to enforce minimum standards of care, welfare and safety.



**BANHAM ZOO**  
The Grove, Banham, Norfolk  
NR16 2HE. Tel: 01953 887 773  
Admission: Adults £5.95  
Children £3.95 under 4s free

**BATTERSEA PARK CHILDREN'S ZOO**  
Banersea Park, London SW11  
4NJ. Tel: 0181-871 7540  
Admission: Adults £1  
Children 50p under 3s free

**CITY OF BELFAST ZOO**  
Hazelwood, Antrim Road,  
Belfast BT36 7PN  
Tel: 01232 776 277  
Admission: Adults £4.50  
Children £2.25 under 4s free

**BLACKPOOL ZOO PARK**  
East Park Drive, Blackpool  
FY3 8PP. Tel: 01253 765 027  
Admission: Adults £4.50  
Children £2.50 under 3s free

**BRISTOL ZOO GARDENS**  
Clifton, Bristol BS8 3HA  
Tel: 0117-9706 176  
Admission: Adults £5.90  
Children £2.80 under 4s free

**CHESTER ZOO**  
Upton-by-Chester CH2 1LH  
Tel: 01244 380 280  
Admission: Adults £7.50  
Children £5 under 3s free

**CHESTNUT CENTRE**  
Castleton Road, Chapel-en-le-  
Frith, Derbyshire SK12 6PE  
Tel: 01298 814 099  
Admission: Adults £4.00  
Children £2 under 4s free

**COLCHESTER ZOO**  
Maldon Road, Stanway,  
Essex CO3 5SL  
Tel: 01206 331 292  
Admission: Adults £6.50  
Children £4.50 under 3s free



Hari, a seven-month-old Sumatran tiger cub, at London Zoo

**NEWQUAY ZOO**  
Trenance Park, Newquay,  
Cornwall TR7 2LZ  
Tel: 01637 873 342  
Admission: Adults £4.30  
Children 6-16 £2.80 2-5 £1

**COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK**  
Burford, Oxon OX18 4JW  
Tel: 01993 823 006  
Admission: Adults £4.90  
Children £3.20 under 4s free

**CRICKET ST. THOMAS WILDLIFE & LEISURE PARK**  
Chard, Somerset TA20 4DD  
Tel: 01460 30755  
Admission: Adults £7.50  
Children £6 under 4s free

**CURRAGHS WILDLIFE PARK**  
Ballaugh, Isle of Man IM7  
SEA. Tel: 01624 897 323

**DARTMOOR WILDLIFE PARK**  
Sparkwell, Plymouth, Devon  
PL7 5DC. Tel: 01752 837 645  
Admission: Adults £5.45  
Children £3.50 under 4s free

**DUBLIN ZOO**  
Phoenix Park, Dublin  
Tel: 01-677 1425  
Admission: Adults IRE5.50  
Children IRE3 under 3s free

**DUDLEY ZOO AND CASTLE**  
2 The Broadway, Dudley,  
West Midlands  
Tel: 01384 215 300  
Admission: Adults £5.25  
Children £3.45 under 3s free

**EDINBURGH ZOO**  
Murrayfield, Edinburgh

Tel: 0131-334 9171  
Admission: Adults £5.80  
Children £3 under 3s free

**EXMOOR ZOOLOGICAL PARK**  
Bratton Fleming, Near  
Barnstaple, North Devon  
Tel: 01598 763 352  
Admission: Adults £3.95  
Children £2.25 under 3s free

**GATWICK ZOO AND AVIARIES**  
Russ Hill, Chariwood, Surrey  
RH6 0EG. Tel: 01893 862 312  
Admission: Adults £3.95  
Children £2.95 under 3s free

**GLASGOW ZOO**  
Uddington, Glasgow  
Tel: 0141-771 1185  
Admission: Adults £4.25  
Children £2.50 under 3s free

**HAMERTON WILDLIFE CENTRE**  
Hamerton, Huntingdon  
Cambs. PE17 5RE  
Tel: 01832 293 362  
Admission: Adults £3.80  
Children £2.20 under 4s free

**LAKELAND WILDLIFE OASIS**  
Hale, Milnthorpe, Cumbria  
Tel: 01539 563 027  
Admission: Adults £4.50  
Children £2.50 under 4s free

**LINTON ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS**  
Haddock Road, Linton,  
Cambs. CB1 6NT  
Tel: 01223 891 308  
Admission: Adults £4  
Children £3 under 2s free

**LONDON ZOO**  
Regents Park London NW1

**HAREWOOD HOUSE AND BIRD GARDEN**  
Harewood House, Leeds LS17  
9NQ. Tel: 01132 886 238  
Admission: Adults £6  
Children £4 under 4s free

**JERSEY WILDLIFE PRESERVATION TRUST**  
Les Augres Manor, Trinity,  
Jersey JE3 5BF  
Tel: 01534 864 666  
Admission: Adults £5  
Children £3 under 3s free

**LAKEVIEW WILDLIFE OASIS**  
Hale, Milnthorpe, Cumbria  
Tel: 01539 563 027  
Admission: Adults £4.50  
Children £2.50 under 4s free

**LINTON ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS**  
Haddock Road, Linton,  
Cambs. CB1 6NT  
Tel: 01223 891 308  
Admission: Adults £4  
Children £3 under 2s free

**LONDON ZOO**  
Regents Park London NW1

**THE OWL CENTRE**  
Muncaster Castle,  
Ravenglass, Cumbria  
Tel: 01229 717 393

4RY. Tel: 0171-722 3333  
Admission: Adults £7.50  
Children £5.50 under 4s free

**MANOR HOUSE WILDLIFE & LEISURE PARK**  
St. Florence, Tenby, Dyfed  
SA70 8RJ. Tel: 01646 651 201  
Admission: Adults £3.50  
Children £2.50 under 3s free

**MARWELL ZOOLOGICAL PARK**  
Colden Common,  
Winchester, Hants SO21 1UH  
Tel: 01962 777 407  
Admission: Adults £7  
Children £5.50 under 3s free

**PAIGNTON ZOO**  
Tobies Road, Paignton, Devon  
TQ4 7BU. Tel: 01803 557 479  
Admission: Adults £5.95  
Children £3.50 under 3s free

**PALACERIGG COUNTRY PARK**  
Cumbernauld, Scotland  
Tel: 01236 720 047  
Admission: Adults £2 with  
car, £1 without car  
Children 50p under 3s free

**PARADISE PARK**  
Hayle, Nr St Ives, Cornwall  
TR27 4RY. Tel: 01736 753365  
Admission: Adults £4.95  
Children £2.95

**PENSCYNOR WILDLIFE PARK**  
Cliffw, Neath, Wales  
Tel: 01639 642 189  
Admission: Adults £5  
Children £3 under 3s free

**SHALDON WILDLIFE TRUST**  
Ness Drive, Shaldon, Devon  
TQ14 0HP. Tel: 01626 872 234  
Admission: Adults £2.50  
Children £1.50 under 3s free



A hand-reared Asian otter at Chestnut Conservation Park

Admission: Adults £3.40  
Children £1.90 under 3s free

**PAIGNTON ZOO**  
Tobies Road, Paignton, Devon  
TQ4 7BU. Tel: 01803 557 479  
Admission: Adults £5.95  
Children £3.50 under 3s free

**PALACERIGG COUNTRY PARK**  
Cumbernauld, Scotland  
Tel: 01236 720 047  
Admission: Adults £2 with  
car, £1 without car  
Children 50p under 3s free

**PARADISE PARK**  
Hayle, Nr St Ives, Cornwall  
TR27 4RY. Tel: 01736 753365  
Admission: Adults £4.95  
Children £2.95

**PENSCYNOR WILDLIFE PARK**  
Cliffw, Neath, Wales  
Tel: 01639 642 189  
Admission: Adults £5  
Children £3 under 3s free

**SHALDON WILDLIFE TRUST**  
Ness Drive, Shaldon, Devon  
TQ14 0HP. Tel: 01626 872 234  
Admission: Adults £2.50  
Children £1.50 under 3s free

**SOUTH LAKES WILD ANIMAL PARK**  
Crossgates, Dalton-in-Furness,  
Cumbria. Tel: 01229 466 086  
Admission: Adults £3.25  
Children £2.25 under 3s free

**SOUTHPORT ZOO**  
Princes Park, Southport,  
Merseyside PR8 1RX  
Tel: 01704 538 102  
Admission: Adults £2.50  
Children £1.50 under 2s free

**SUFFOLK WILDLIFE PARK**  
Whites Lane, Kessingland,  
Near Lowestoft, Suffolk  
Tel: 01502 740 291  
Admission: Adults £5.50  
Children £3.50 under 4s free

**THRIGBY HALL WILDLIFE GARDENS**  
Thrighby Hall, Fillyby, Great  
Yarmouth, Norfolk  
Tel: 01493 369 477  
Admission: Adults £4.50  
Children £3 under 4s free

**TWYCRASS ZOO**  
Atherstone, Warwickshire  
Tel: 01827 880 250  
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Spain: mountain walking without tears in the Castilian heartland, or a train journey through Andalucia

# Trail of treats across the high sierra



**Y**ou have walked all morning in 30-degree heat and you are nearing the end of a 2,000ft climb. Your water bottle is empty, your energy reserves low. Apart from your fellow walkers, the only sign of life is a flock of sheep on a distant hillside.

You reach the crest and what do you see? A perfectly laid picnic table, with bread and wine and cheese and salad and a big basket of fruit, all neatly arranged on a red-and-white check tablecloth.

A mirage? Merely a holiday feature provided by the Alternative Travel Group. The idea behind the group's "journeys" (guided walks along a continuous route) is simple: you do the walking and the group takes care of everything else. It's not walking for soles, exactly — the walks, though optional, are tough enough — but it's certainly walking for those who appreciate their comforts. And it seems to be a winning formula. Of 12 people in my party, I was the only ATG "virgin". Richard, from Northumberland, was on his 13th trip in as many years; Mimi had flown over from Maryland for her fifth. Harold had completed ten journeys in three years and was taking the eleventh "courtesy of the company, a standard offer."

We had chosen the sierras of Rioja, in northern Spain. I was familiar with the Spanish periphery — Andalucia, Catalonia, Majorca — but had never spent much time in the Castilian heartland which aficionados describe as the true Spain. Besides, the word Rioja had a certain wine-soaked appeal.

The name is slightly misleading: less than half the trip is in the province of La Rioja. We began in Covarrubias, known as the "cradle of Castile" for its role in the unification and reconquest of Spain from the Moors. The local hero, Fernán González, was the first Count of Castile and is buried in the collegiate church, where coachloads of visitors arrive each day to pay homage. At night the walled

## FACT FILE

■ The Alternative Travel Group, 69-71 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PE (01865 513333) offers an 11-day trip in September for £1,340, including flights, accommodation and all food and wine. There is a single supplement of £125.

■ A pair of sturdy, worn-in walking boots is essential. It is also useful to take a small day pack for sun hat, sun cream, sunglasses, insect repellent, water bottle, binoculars and camera.

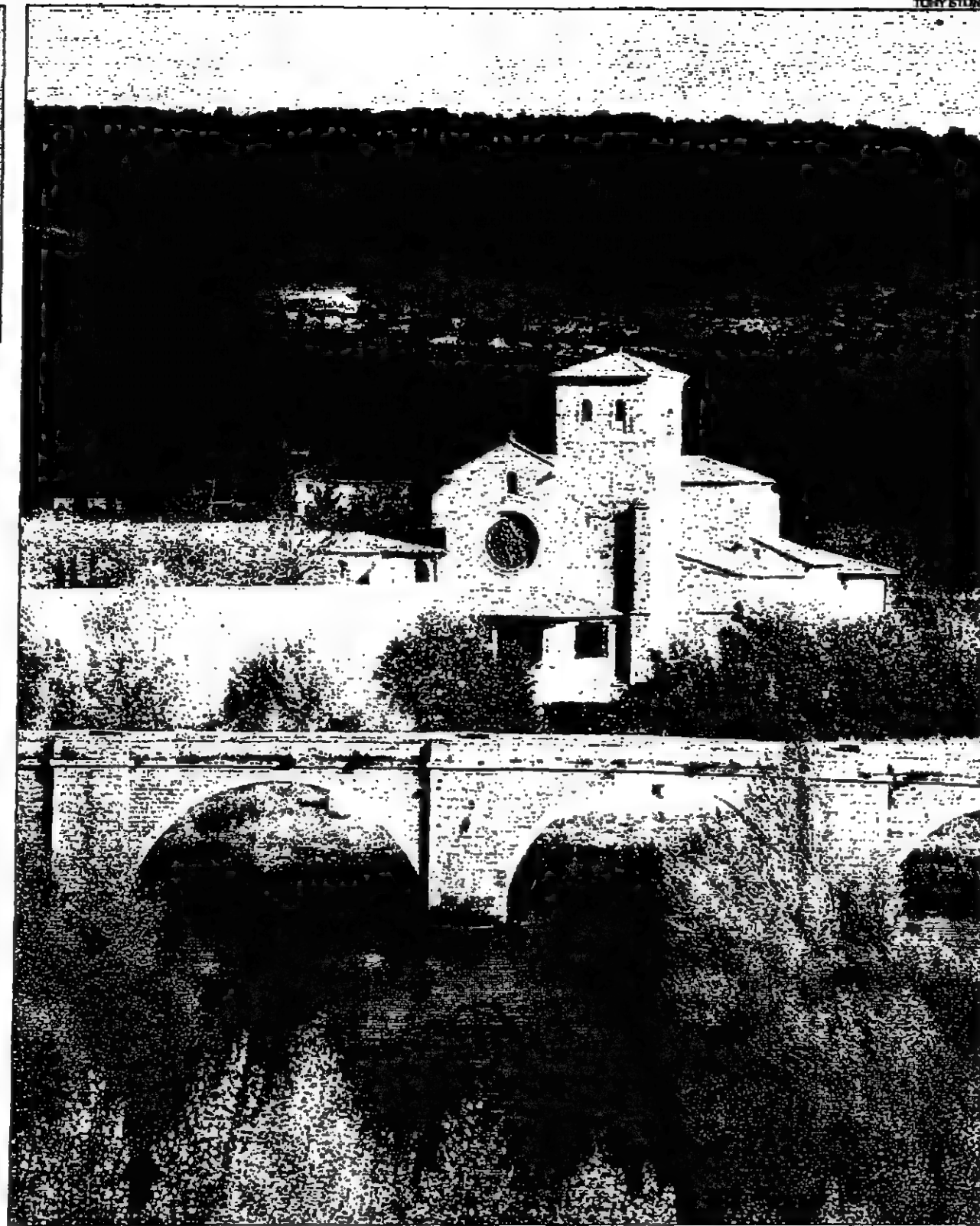
■ Shorts are fine for walking but long trousers and long-sleeved, collared shirts provide better protection from sun and gorse. Be prepared for a downpour by carrying light waterproofs.

■ For the evenings, take smart casual clothes which do not need ironing. A jacket and tie is not necessary for men.

■ The area is sparsely covered in guidebooks but *Spain: The Rough Guide* (Rough Guides, £9.99) gives useful background on the country.

town takes on a new look as locals spill into the plazas of half-timbered, stilted houses to gossip, dance and play cards at tables in the evening sun. I could have stayed for days, but this was a journey and we had to move on.

Our first walk took us to Quintanilla de las Viñas, where we picnicked under an oak tree looking down over the patchwork of red earth and green fields that is the Spanish plain. The 7th-century Visigothic church here is one of the



The ancient walled town of Covarrubias makes a relaxing starting-point for a walk into the Sierra de la Demanda

oldest in Spain, with its original horseshoe arch and stone carvings, including the earliest Spanish representation of Christ, sandwiched between the sun and moon as a concession to paganism.

The next day we reached Santo Domingo de Silos, a small town of golden stone houses huddled around a monastery which hit the big time a couple of years back when its monks reached the pop charts with their recording of a Gregorian chant. We

arrived just in time for vespers. Exhausted after a 15-mile walk, I dozed off to the sound of plainsong.

After a good night's sleep I returned to the church for Mass, then looked around the 10th-century cloisters. Sunlight threw shadows on the stone, a tall cypress tree shone through the arches, pigeons drank from a fountain... the works of God and man in perfect harmony.

From here we climbed into the mountains, as scrubland

dotted with wild peonies and violets gave way to cool forests of pine and birch. On foot you really notice how each shift in altitude leads to a subtle change in the landscape. High on a ridge we came across a farmer with a group of mares and foals. "What do you keep these for?" someone asked. "Para carne," for meat, he replied, putting several people off their lunchtime chorizo.

At Nela we walked above the snowline (even in June) on an Alpine ridge, looking down

over glacial lakes formed by melting winter snows. This is Spain's great outdoors, a national park of hiking trails and mountain refuges, home to walkers, cyclists and anglers. We dropped through oak and pine and flowering heather, gazing across at our next and biggest challenge: the Sierra de la Demanda.

Now we were in La Rioja and the serious walking began. It took three days to cross the range, climbing to a pass each morning and drop-

ping to a valley each night. The longest day's walk was 17 miles. But every day there was the picnic to focus our thoughts, and each night we arrived at a new hotel to find our luggage waiting in our rooms and a meal being prepared in the kitchen — hearty Castilian stews with chickpeas, beans and sausages or roasts cooked for hours in a wood-burning oven.

And the wines... well, we were in Rioja, after all. We drank the best that the region produces, and there seemed to be no limit. Like everything else, wine is included in the cost of the holiday so that the only money you need is small change for postcards, ice-creams and the occasional sherry. Menus and wine lists are worked out in advance.

The only decision you have to make on these trips, one veteran said, "is whether to have coffee after dinner." A tour leader accompanies the walks, identifying birds and flowers and saving you the need to take a map. Meanwhile the tour manager drives ahead with the luggage and prepares the picnic. The young staff are sickeningly talented: they know their languages, their history, their wines and, when a guide in one church asked whether anyone could play the organ, it was our leader, old Etonian Edward Granville, who volunteered.

**O**ur final walk followed an old pilgrim trail between two monasteries. On the day we went it was deserted: when we found wild orchids and magnificent butterflies crossed our path, it occurred to me that if we had not come this way, no one would ever have known they were there.

Finally we reached San Millán de la Cogolla, a town which has grown up around the legend of the eponymous San Millán, a 6th-century shepherd who became a cave hermit and lived to the age of 101. We came to a clearing in the woods and looked down over the town, where the mountains meet the plain. There was the massive monastery, within whose walls we would spend the night in a luxury hotel: there were the vegetable gardens, tended by the monks; there was a jumble of brown houses and red roofs. And there, behind us, were the mountains we had crossed.

The idea of the journey suddenly made sense. After eight days and 102 miles, we had arrived — and the champagne was waiting for us.

TONY KELLY

● The author was a guest of Alternative Travel Group.

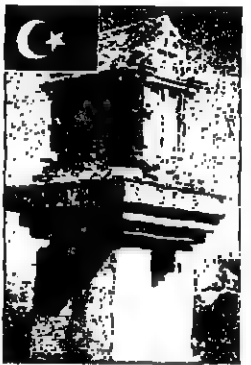
## TRAVEL DIRECTORY



### WORLD GOLF

Why more than 80,000 British golfers will be teeing-off in the sun this year — even though there may be lions among the birdsies

PAGES 20,21



### TURKEY

Walking tourists are mad say the locals in country areas, because there are no maps. But it's the only way to see the beauty of the remoter parts

PAGE 22



### BRITAIN

The Victorian railway barons were daft to build it, but the Carlisle-Settle line must be the most thrilling journey in the country

PAGE 23



TRAVEL TIPS, PAGE 25

## Going loco to Seville

**T**here are fast trains, slow trains and trains that go in circles. But there are few that offer such a contrast between the new and the old in train travel than in Spain.

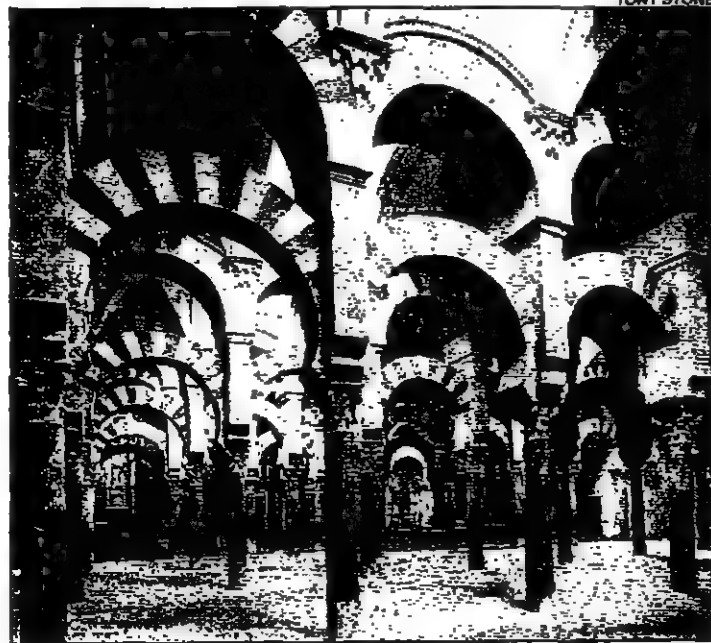
The Ave Express, prince of the European bullet trains, whistles between Madrid and Seville in two-and-a-half hours. The Al Andalus Express meanders through the countryside of Andalucia for four days, starting and finishing in Seville.

I boarded the latter, starting with an enjoyable late Sunday morning journey to Córdoba. The train consists of a mixture of carriages from the 1920s and 1930s, restored and coupled together in 1983. The style is long on marquetry, ornate decoration and opulence, with air conditioning. The result: a trip aimed at those who would enjoy the Orient Express.

The 13 carriages include restaurant cars, a saloon car, a bar car with electronic piano and dance floor, five sleeping carriages and two shower cars. It runs slowly and serenely through the delightful villages, hills and orchards of Andalucia and is most conducive to dozing.

From time to time the train halts to give travellers time to explore. We spent half a day in Córdoba, centred on the old Jewish quarter and the remarkable building which is half mosque and half cathedral, and enjoyed a gargantuan lunch at the Restaurant Almodaina, a delightful 15th-century Jewish building next to the Medina.

Overnight, the train halted at a village station outside Córdoba and we awoke next



The mosque at Córdoba, formerly the capital of Moorish Spain

morning to find ourselves on the way to Granada, for many the jewel of Andalucia. It was one of the treats of the year to visit the Alhambra Palace and the incomparable Generalife Gardens with only my train companions in attendance.

The modern town of Granada is dire, an ugly splash of new concrete and lax planning. This makes the unexpected sight of the beautiful old town, all white Moorish buildings and narrow alleys,

with the stunning backdrop of the Alhambra Palace, all the more astounding.

In each courtyard and garden there are fountains, so the sound of running water is always in the background, the water coming from the melted snows of the Sierra Nevada which in turn is the backdrop to Granada.

Next morning we set off for Ronda. Our solitary progress along a single-track line though unspoiled landscape,

stopping informally at village stations en route, called to mind what rail travel across the American midwest must have been like in the 1890s. We were taken into the countryside by bus for a huge lunch at the Finca La Bobadilla, half ranch and half country club.

Ronda, scene of the last great rising of the Moors against Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, has the oldest bullring in Spain, incorporating a museum. The town is built on the edge of cliffs which drop hundreds of feet to the swirling river below. It was from these cliffs that Franco's army threw 500 republicans into the river during the civil war.

Next day, a coach ride to Marbella had been laid on, but I chose to spend the day wandering around Ronda. Then it was on through the rain-drenched fields back to Seville. Normally the rain would have been depressing, but our Spanish hosts were so delighted to see it after six years of drought that their enthusiasm was catching.

In Seville we watched a heart-tugging flamenco show — no dancing I have seen has ever made me feel so good. If you are a true connoisseur of Andalucia, a train may not be the best mode of travel. But this train certainly is a delight, and so are the people who run it. It isn't cheap but it is wonderfully comfortable and escapist for five days.

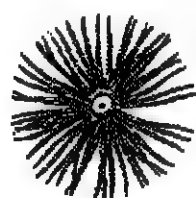
There was a mobile phone in the lounge car if you wanted to call home, but I never found anyone using it.

MICHAEL SISSONS

● The author was a guest of Cox and Kings Travel.

## ANDALUCIA FACT FILE

■ Cox and Kings Travel, 4th Floor, Gordon House, 10 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PH (0171-873 5000, fax 0171-630 6038), offers five nights twin-share accommodation aboard the Al Andalus Express, one night twin-share at the Hotel Tryp Colon, return flights from Heathrow to Seville, and all meals from breakfast on days 2-7 from £1,425 for departures on Sept 14, 21 and 28, and Oct 12, 19 and 26. Single supplement (all dates) £240; deluxe cabin supplement (all dates) £125; suite supplement (all dates) £250.



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Golf: as the British Open swings into action, many club players' minds turn to blending holidays...

## Lions among the birdies

### ZIMBABWE

At more than 100F in the shade, the prospect of a round of golf at Elephant Hills Golf Club in Victoria Falls was not that appealing. If any further disincentive was needed, the notice from the general manager warning of the presence of lions on the fairways, and disclaiming any responsibility for personal injury, provided an even better excuse for remaining in the cool of the 19th hole. However, it was a beautiful day and the well-wooded, well-watered course lay before us. More importantly, the caddies, while conceding that they had seen the lions, seemed relaxed. So we drove off, neatly dividing the group of waiters on the fairway. We rather regretted the absence of the great white hunter who had joined our game in the peaceful surroundings of the Royal Harare club a few days earlier. Without him, we would have to defend ourselves with, perhaps, a seven iron in the event of an attack.

Happily, the only threat came close to the water at the short 15th when my mislaid nine-iron shot landed close to a sleeping crocodile. I was allowed a free drop. Apart from these hazards, the course is delightful and the company of the warthogs, impalas and dozens of chattering baboons adds to the fun. The 72-par course is attractively laid out, with wide fairways and some splendid trees — especially a huge baobab tree, estimated by locals to be between 500 and 1,000 years old.

Considering the heat, it is a relief that most of the holes are fairly flat. Helpful local rules include advice that "warthog damage may be treated as Ground Under Repair" and, confusingly, "Termites are not classed as burrowing animals". Overlooking the

MORE than 80,000 golfers are this year expected to cash in on the plunging cost of playing some of the world's finest courses, writes *Harvey Elliott*. So many new courses have been built that competition is fierce for their custom. Greg Olszowski, marketing manager of Longshot Golf Holidays, says that the Algarve remains the top seller, with Spain coming up fast.

There are also more women players this year. "Men's tours are being replaced by couples' and women's holidays with golf," he says. The boom is gathering pace so fast that Thomson is pleading with players to warn in advance that they will be bringing clubs so that the aircraft can be loaded correctly.

PRICES for golf breaks range from £299 for a three-day B&B stay in Spain to about £11,000 for a 30-day round-the-world tour taking in 15 different courses.

course is the Elephant Hills hotel, which has 270 bedrooms, decorated in traditional African style, tennis and squash courts and a bowling green. Smaller, with 72 bedrooms, is the Victoria Falls Safari hotel in a lush country setting with wonderful views from every room. From the restaurant terrace you can see the nearby waterhole where elephants, lions and buffalo come to drink.

Victoria Falls is a must in the golfer's Zimbabwe itinerary. The falls are pleasantly uncommercialised, despite a large increase in visitors in recent years with the introduction of direct flights from South Africa.

The Victoria Falls hotel remains as elegant and imposing as ever and is being extensively refurbished. The walk from the beautiful gardens down the park to the Falls takes about 15 minutes and, if you go early, abundant wildlife can be seen and heard.

Harare, the capital, is well provided with excellent golf courses. I recommend Royal Harare (par 72, length 6,467 metres), Chapman Golf Club

(par 72, length 6,514 metres), both near the centre of the city, and the delightful Ruwa Country Club, which is about half an hour's drive from the others.

Royal Harare is a little grander than Chapman's but both are splendid ambassadorial residences. If you are held up by the players in front, it is pleasantly distracting to watch the shining Mercedes sweep through the gateways. Is this a hive of diplomatic activity, or is it the ambassador's wife's turn to host the bridge party?

Both courses reflect the foresight of the original committees in planting a remarkable array of trees and shrubs: between late September and early October the jacaranda trees are in full bloom and the beautiful, purplish blossom is dazzling. The Zimbabwe Open alternates between each course.

Ruwa Country Club (par 72, 6,344 metres) is about 18 miles outside Harare on the way to the Eastern Highlands. The well designed course has a charming thatched clubhouse manned by an enthusiastic staff.

Harare is the point of arrival for

many visitors to Zimbabwe and, after a long flight, you can stay either at a city-centre hotel, such as Meikles, or at one of the lodges on the outskirts. The city hosts many conferences and has several international hotels. Meikles dates back to the First World War and has expanded a lot in recent years. It has four restaurants and seven bars and is in the middle of the main shopping centre, with a pleasant walk across the gardens to the cathedral.

Imba Matamob Lodge, which is about a 15-minute drive from Meikles, has extremely comfortable, individual lodges allowing total privacy for the guests. It is an ideal place to relax after a tiring journey, with its 25-metre long swimming pool, and a good base for local golfing and other activities.

Close to Ruwa Country Club is Landela Lodge which offers a choice of things to do apart from golf, including riding. It, too, has a swimming pool and pretty gardens.

The last course we visited was at Leopard Rock, a four-hour drive from Harare on the Mozambique border. A superb course in the foothills of the Vumba Mountains (par 71, length 6,151 metres), it is part of the grounds of the Leopard Rock hotel.

As in other parts of the country, there are an amazing range of trees and wildlife here. The hotel has a list of 887 different birds in the area.

Some advice for all golfers in Zimbabwe: take advantage of the local custom followed by all the courses and have a break for refreshment after nine holes, and put a bottle or two of water in your golf bag.

BRIAN NICHOLSON

The author was a guest of Sunsport Tours



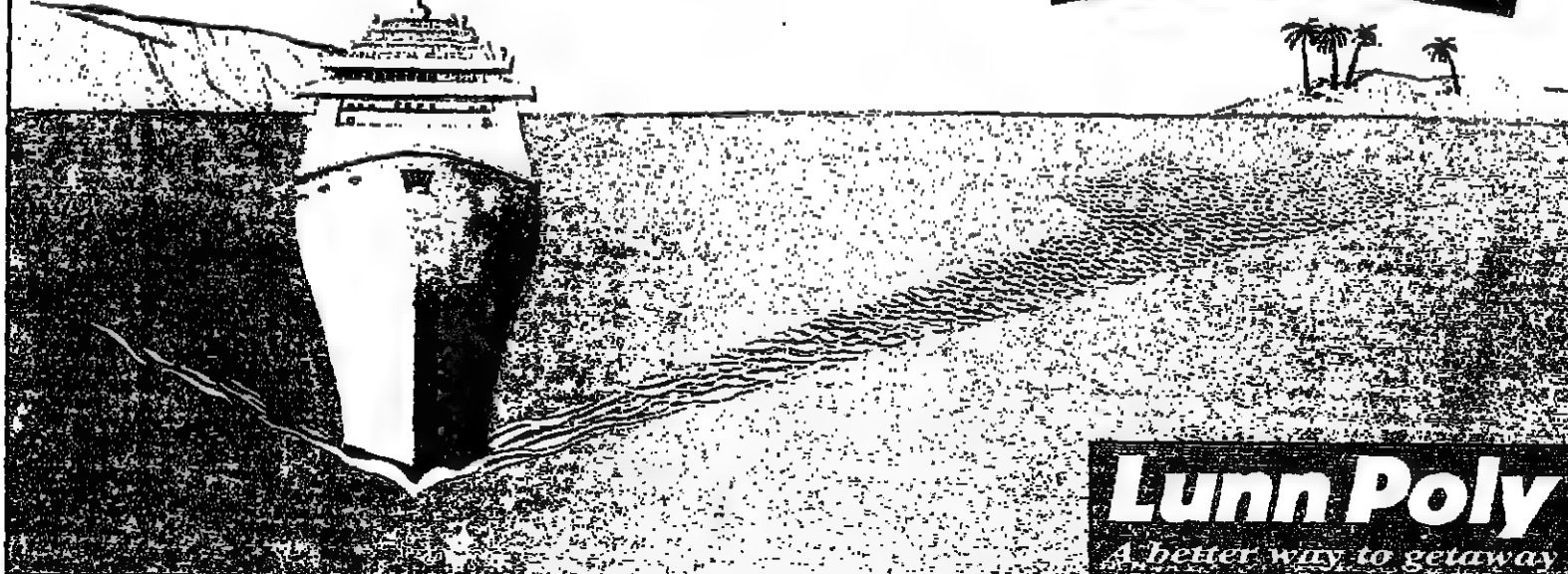
The Victoria Falls and nearby hotels are a must on any golfer's Zimbabwe itinerary

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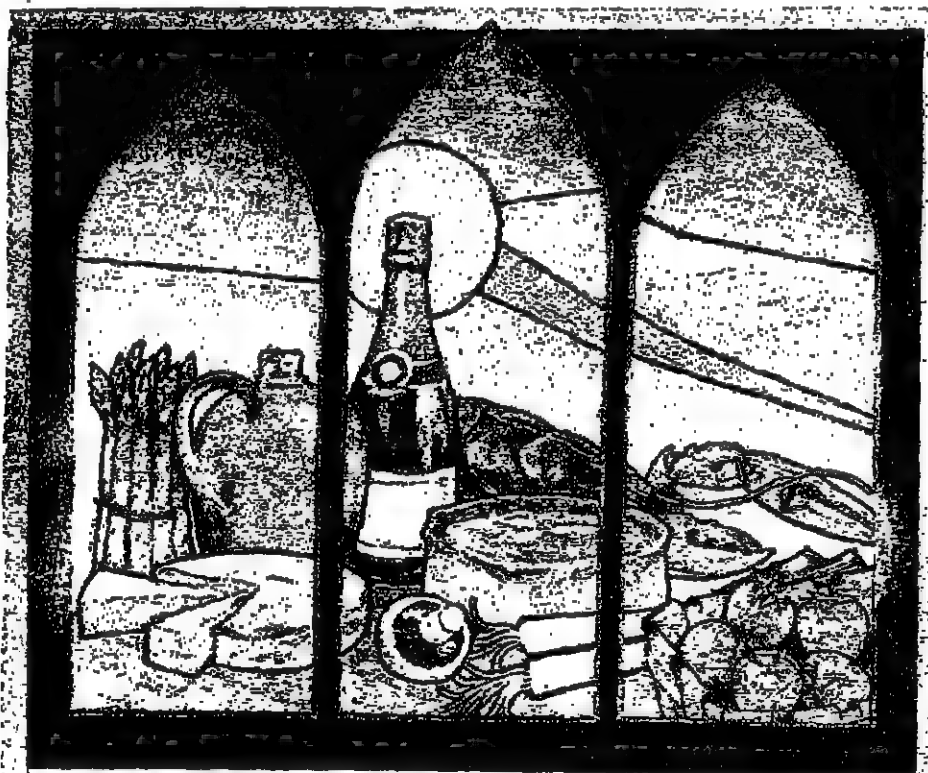
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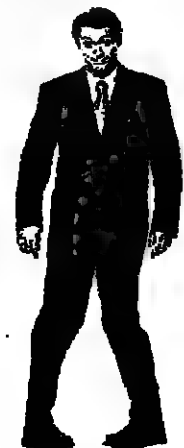
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## TRAVEL

21

... with testing their sporting skills on some of the most attractive and challenging courses in the world

## PHOENIX

FOR LOVERS of western, desert golf takes place in familiar territory. Blue-green sagebrush stretches to wide horizons. The indigenous three-pronged saguaro cactus stands in distinctive silhouette on rocky hillsides. A runaway stagecoach would complete the picture, but if one were to appear here in the Phoenix area the horses would be pulled up short by acres of greensward in places nature never intended.

In the 1990s Arizona has established itself as a leading player in the international golf league, with heavily watered and impeccably manicured courses hacked out of arid sand. The rough is cactus scrub, so wayward balls usually have to be dropped rather than played. Even searching for them can be perilous in the shadow of tee-side notices which read, "Beware of rattlesnakes".

The golf course at The Phoenixian resort within the Phoenix city limits is the raison d'être for a five-star complex dedicated to providing what is described as "a positive golfing experience".

THIS MEANS that it is celebrity-led: Virginia Wade and Sir David Frost exchange pleasantries over the check-in procedure as a bellhop, garbed as a gaucho, tries to locate luggage lost during the valet parking.

Will it turn up before tee-off time? This is a vital question on a course that aspires to military precision. If your cart isn't in the line up by 12.07pm precisely, all is chaos. Although the first ball was struck only in October, 1993, the pressure on The Phoenixian par-71 championship course is already so great that a further nine holes are scheduled to open in November. The existing 18-hole course has a split personality, part manicured grassland, part desert. After a deceptively benevolent start, the water hazards kick in, culminating at the ninth with an artificial lake that guards the green so comprehensively that it must be crossed or the hole lost.

The second nine head into undulating terrain on the lower slopes of Camelback Mountain. As is customary with desert golf, success demands straight shooting from the tees if balls are not to stray into rafter country. After groping among the cactus, it is almost a relief to find yourself back

among the artificial lakes for the run up to the clubhouse. It is hard to imagine a more opulent back-up for a golfing holiday than The Phoenixian, with its choice of cuisines, marble sunken bathrooms and fine public rooms. Those who like comparable luxury on a smaller scale may prefer The Boulders, 30 miles to the north. As the name suggests, this is rock country, rich in the dramatic rounded formations that characterise the Sonora desert.

The Boulders has two 18-hole golf courses unimaginatively named North and South, but designed to test the pinpoint accuracy and the patience of the golfer. Many of the holes are on the fairway, fairway to green, with unforgiving belts of cactus scrub in between. The fairways are narrow and the greens well guarded by sand traps that make full use of unlimited local supplies. Breathtaking views create an added hazard: it can be difficult to keep your eye on the ball.

In the contemporary jargon, The Boulders is a "hideaway" resort, with central public rooms for eating and lounging and individual casitas for sleeping. It claims to blend so well with the environment that the wildlife is unaware of its existence. I wonder if the coyote that wandered across the fairway in pursuit of our cart would agree.

## MINTY CLINCH

The author was a guest of Destination Golf.



## PALM SPRINGS

IF PHOENIX is golf's future, Palm Springs is part of its history. For this, it must thank Bob Hope and his friends for luring Hollywood away from the desert into the natural palm oases once inhabited by the Agua Caliente Indians. In former times, the Indians were peaceful hunter-gatherers based in an area where abundant hot springs made the desert bloom. In modern times, they have become fighters for tribal rights, with so much success that they are the largest landowners in the city.

Today, the waters that attracted them to the area irrigate 100 courses in a golf-mad city. Is your plane delayed? No worries, there's a putting green at the airport to while away the wait.

A ten-minute drive brings you to the Desert Princess Country Club, one among many emerald oases dedicated to the great god of golf. The view from the clubhouse is quintessential Palm Springs: verdant turf, orange-pink crags

reflected in still blue waters, tall trees motionless in clear air.

On La Vista, the longest of the Desert Princess's three nine-hole courses, the ball must fly straight and true from the first down the left-hand shore of a long ornamental lake if a disastrous start is to be avoided. By the second, the fairway is lined with houses, one of them owned by the two newly retired law enforcement officers from Pasadena who make up our fours. "Not that one, I hope," I ask anxiously as my wayward tee-shot cracks down on a roof.

AS WE progress, the wind rises and increases until the fairways are lost in clouds of sand. This maelstrom is El Niño, the hot desert wind from Mexico that is California's answer to the Mistral. Within minutes the course is almost

deserted. With British bloody-mindedness, we play on, to be rewarded within the hour by an empty course restored to unruffled sunshine.

Los Lagos and its sisters, La Vista and El Cielo, can be played in combination to make up three par 72 championship courses, each more than 6,000 yards. And whichever route you happen to choose, you'll be lucky to avoid 21 strategically placed lakes.

For those with energy to spare after 27 holes, the 345-acre Doubletree Resort has a driving range, ten tennis courts, two swimming pools, two racquetball courts and a fitness centre. The Doubletree Hotel specialises in mid-range American comfort geared towards convention victims who see all-round competition as part of the drive up the corporate ladder.

M.C.

The author was a guest of Virgin International Airways and Virgin Holidays.

## PICARDY

FRANCE apparently occupies ninth position in the world rankings for the number of golfers per thousand of population. In Picardy, with its three departments of Aisne, Oise and Somme, this intelligence can be extrapolated to show that the region's 23 golf clubs have an average membership of about 270, which is less than half that of the average club in Britain.

In Britain, there are getting on for three million golfers, many of them milling around looking for somewhere to play while on holiday, and the Picardy Tourist Board has latched on to this.

The board suggests that the Brits take their cars to Dover, board a P&O ferry for the 75-minute Channel crossing, take a leisurely lunch and then drive off down the A26 from Calais to the uncrowded courses of Picardy.

The roads are empty, the courses well away from the normal tourist areas, and there is plenty of room on them. At least there was when we were there.

I have to admit that our golfing break coincided with a period of excessively hot weather, and I had to break off after every nine holes or so like a beached whale. The heat could have been why the courses were so empty, but the local hoteliers say that, though they book tee times for their guests, this is unnecessary on week days (Sundays are a different matter).

The first course we played was Golf de L'Alliance, ten minutes from Laon. A round here costs Fr185 (about £23), or Fr240 (about £30) at weekends. The course is a sporting mixture of easy-going parkland holes, with occasional intrusions from a huge sailing lake, and precipitous hills with vertiginous greens. There is a good hotel on the spot, but beware of the mosquitoes on warm nights.

Our second round was at Apremont, a Japanese-owned course between Senlis and Chantilly, where the green fees (about £40 on weekdays, £70 at weekends) reflect the luxury of the clubhouse, in particular the Japanese baths

"of unique Asiatic refinement". It came as no surprise to find an elevated ashtray beside each tee with cigarette ends stubbed neatly head down in the sand.

From the back tees Apremont is more than 7,000 yards, but there are four different tees for each hole that can make it up to almost a mile shorter.

Golfers who prefer something less expensive (£21 and £30) should try the Amiens club, a straightforward course that we had to ourselves on a Monday morning. The main hazard here, as at Apremont, is probably the size of the greens, where one has to struggle not to do worse than three-putt.

Between the bays of the Somme and Authie lies the Marquenterre, 12 kilometres of wild dunes and pine trees, which are a refuge for thousands of migratory birds. They are also the home of a links I would not have missed for the world. This is the Belle Dune golf club at Fort Mahon (£20 on weekdays, or £75 for five rounds), which the Picardy coastal authority built to safeguard the natural habitat as well as to encourage tourism.

The fairways had to be carefully sited to avoid creating tunnels that could funnel the winds and sweep away a whole dune overnight. A million hand-planted beach grasses were used to stabilise the fairways. The course insinuates itself innocently enough through corridors of pine trees until suddenly one comes upon a vista of immense sand dunes. Because nature and not man has decreed the layout, it is sometimes a long way from the green to the next tee. But that is a small price to pay for the absence of artificial hazards and, above all, the peace of the place.

## JOHN GRANT

The author was a guest of the French Government Tourist Office in conjunction with P&O European Ferries and Vauxhall Motors.

EXACTLY 400 years ago the British sacked the port of Faro in the Algarve, only to be scared away by locals swinging sticks cave-man style and establishing for Portugal the legend of the *cacha-morreiros*, or cudgel-wielders. Thankfully, the process has been amicably reversed. Of the Algarve's many invaders — Carthaginians, Phoenicians, Visigoths and Moors — it is the British, primarily, who now fly in to Faro bearing such cudgels as No 3 woods, 7 irons, wedges and putters.

In 30 years, the western Algarve has become an Eden of golf. Sir Richard Costain, the builder, saw in Vale do Lobo, 20 kilometres west of Faro, the possibilities of linking white-scrubbed villas set in groves of eucalyptus, pine, olive, almond and orange, with networks of soft green golfing fairways and greens. Vilamoura doubled golf with a marina, while the builders Trafalgar House and Bovis sought to give a Beverly Hills gloss to Quinta do Lago.

West of this, the air freshens, the Cape St Vincent beckons and golf accommodates development, rather than vice versa. Here Sir Henry Cotton, the three times Open champion, was the master pioneer. He created Penina from a paddlyfield and primed it with 350,000 trees. Recently, the course was given a £2.5 million pound update. The 190-room, five-star Le Meridien Penina hotel has had a £3 million refurbishment, including a teaching academy to sit with the Championship and two nine-hole courses.

The heavy winter rains filled the reservoirs of the Monchique hills for the next two years, a blessing for nearby Palmares, Carvoeira, Alto and Parque da Floresta. These, with Penina,

## PORTUGAL

make a nest of courses on the Lagos-Portimao axis, fine beaches abounding and good meals with wine costing under £10 a head. The golf here is as natural and diverse as Algarve chimneys. Palmares' outward nine holes sweep down to the silvery sands of Meia Praia before climbing back among the fig and olive trees. At about £30 a game, Palmares is among the cheaper courses.

Cotton died before he had finished the Alto course but the journalist Peter Dobereiner helped see it to a conclusion. Robert Bridge, its English pro, gladly hands a certificate to anyone who birdies the 604-metre 16th, known as "The Giant".

WITH LONG experience of Quinta do Lago, Stuart Woodman directs the neighbouring Carvoeiro courses of Vale da Pinta, where the American designer Ronald Fream has retained many of the characteristics of an ancient olive grove: deep greens are protected by as many as 59 bunkers. The adjacent Quinta do Gramacho cunningly employs double tees and greens to extract 18 holes from more limited territory.

Lastly, where the hills roll down towards Cape St Vincent and the end of Europe, Parque da Floresta teases and tests. About £1 million has been spent by the Vigia Group in re-ordering its layout over challenging natural contours. Greens have been re-sculpted and drainage improved for better lies and buggy routes. The 500-yard opening hole remains, skirting a chasm like a volcano crater. Earth tremors are not unknown hereabouts, but the more usual quaking is on the first tee.

JOHN SAMUEL

## GOLFING FACT FILE

■ ZIMBABWE Sunport Tours (01604 31626) offers a five-night package including flights with Air Zimbabwe, transfers, B&B accommodation at Leopard Rock, Melkies and Imba Matombo and a day trip to Victoria Falls with a cruise down the Zambezi, from £1,100 per person sharing a twin room in low season (Jan 16-Mar 31, and Sept 1-Nov 30). Single room supplement £185. A night at Victoria Falls is suggested, staying at the Elephant Hills Hotel. This costs from £70 per person sharing.

■ PHOENIX Destination Golf (0181-891 5151) offers seven-night packages, including flights and car hire, from £859 in the summer low season, and £1,155 after Sept 26. Green fees \$75-\$115 (including cart). Three-day packages (unlimited golf, cart, breakfast and dinner) at The Boulders from £530.

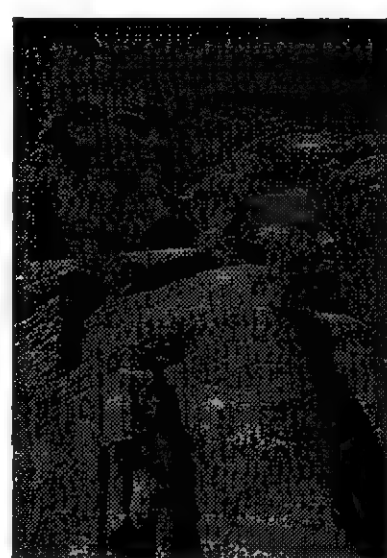
■ PALM SPRINGS Virgin Atlantic Airways (01293 747747) offers Apex return fares at £512 in Oct, £612 July to Sept, £412 in Nov, Jan, Feb and Mar. Virgin Holidays (01293 617181) offers high season packages including seven nights and car hire at the Doubletree Hotel and flights from £699; 14 nights from £829.

■ PICARDY A Picardy Fact Pack is available from The French Government Tourist Office 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL (enclosing £1 in postage stamps for p&p) or call France Information on 0891 244123 (calls charged 39p/min cheap rate and 49p at all other times). A four-day Dover-Calais return with P&O European Ferries (0990 980980) costs £69 per car and up to five passengers until Sept 15 (£10 supplement Saturdays).

■ PORTUGAL Forte Reservations (0345 404040) quote three and seven day-stays at Le Meridien Penina, including flights. High season B&B packages cost £325 for three days, £849 for seven. Some reduced green fees are available. British Airways Holidays (01293 723131) offers stays at the Hotel de Lagos (Lagos), Hotel Almansor (Carvoeiro), Hotel Algarve (Portimao), Le Meridien Penina and the Sheraton (Praia de Falesia) from £349 for three nights, including flights, B&B, car hire and reduced green fees at most west Algarve courses. Seven nights are from £449. The Parque da Floresta club is offering T-shirts readers two rounds for the price of one this month and next on presentation of this article.

A journey along the Nile is a passage through antiquity. It is an incomparable river voyage that brings to life the great monuments of the Pharaohs, the divine kings of thirty dynasties who ruled Egypt for some 3,500 years before Christ.

Travelling with us will be our guest lecturer who will add much to our understanding of all we see. Ashore we will be joined at the sites by knowledgeable local guides. There will be a number of informative talks on board which will be a recap of the day's explorations as well as a briefing for tomorrow's activity. Exploration by river is without doubt the most comfortable and relaxing way to see Egypt and particularly when one is fortunate



enough to travel on one of the smaller vessels of the first class Thomas Cook Egypt fleet. With a party size of approximately forty travellers, the atmosphere on board is more akin to a private yacht. However, the best feature of such a small party is the speed and ease at which we can move around the sites and embark and disembark. On a larger vessel so much time can be wasted whilst hundreds of passengers queue to land, join a coach etc. In addition to our ten nights on the river, we will have a total of four days in Cairo, Egypt's capital for the past thousand years. From here we will visit the wonders of Giza, Saqqara and Memphis as well as visit the Cairo Museum and the old city.



## A PASSAGE ALONG THE NILE

A 15 DAY JOURNEY THROUGH MIDDLE AND UPPER EGYPT ABOARD THE ROYAL SERENADE  
12-26 February and 12-26 March 1997 with Robert Anderson

## THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 London (Heathrow) - Cairo with Egyptian. Drive to the luxurious Hotel Semiramis Inter-Continental for a 3 night stay.

DAY 2 Cairo Drive to Giza and see the pyramids of Khufu and Cheops alongside the Great Sphinx. Visit the complex of the temples and the wooden boat of Cheops.

DAY 3 Cairo Morning visit to the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities where the Pharaoh's reign of 3000 years is brought to life, culminating in the golden hoard of King Tutankhamun. Later drive to Saqqara to see the Step Pyramid of King Zoser and on to Memphis to see the sphinx and statue of Ramses II.

DAY 4 Cairo-Luxor Morning visit to the Roman-Byzantine fortress of Old Cairo including the Coptic Museum and St Sergius Church. Afternoon flight to Luxor and embark Royal Serenade. Moor overnight.

DAY 5 On the Nile A leisurely day sailing to Sohag.

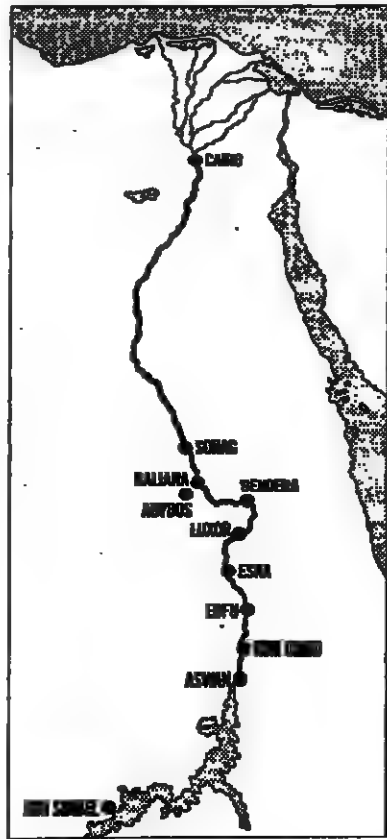
DAY 6 Sohag-Ballana This morning we will visit two Coptic monasteries. Firstly, the Red Monastery dating back to the 18th century and, later, the White Monastery. Cruise the Nile to Ballana and moor overnight.

DAY 7 Abydos and Dendera Drive through the fertile Nile Valley to Abydos, the most sacred site in Egypt to visit the temples of Set I and his son, Ramses II. Also see the Tablet of Abydos which lists 76 Egyptian Kings. In the afternoon, drive to the temple of Hathor at Dendera to see the decorated chapels and striking bas-reliefs of Queen Cleopatra. Sail to Qum for an overnight mooring.

DAY 8 Luxor Morning on the river. Afternoon visit to the magnificent temples of Karnak and Luxor. Moor overnight.

DAY 9 Luxor An early start this morning, crossing the Nile and driving through sugar plantations and desert to the Necropolis of ancient Thebes. See the Sphinx of the Pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings, the mortuary temple of Queen Hatshepsut, the Valley of the Queens and the Colossi of Memnon. Afternoon at leisure, perhaps visiting the nearby Luxor Museum. This evening we will attend a sound and light show at the temple of Karnak.

DAY 10 Esna and Edfu Morning on the Nile. In the afternoon take a stroll through Esna and visit the striking Ptolemaic temple overlooking the Nile. Sail to Aswan and moor overnight.



DAY 12 Aswan Visit the Aswan High Dam — the largest rock-filled dam in the world and continue to the reconstructed temple of Philae. In the afternoon we will sail across the Nile by felucca to Kitchener Island. This was once the General's property, but now a botanical garden with a marvelous collection of African plants and trees.

DAY 13 Abu Simbel Early morning flight to Abu Simbel to see the reconstructed rock-hewn temple of Ramses and the temple of Nefertiti. Return to Aswan by air.

DAY 14 Aswan-Cairo Morning flight to Cairo for an overnight stay at the Hotel Semiramis Inter-Continental. Afternoon at leisure, perhaps making a visit to the Islamic Museum which houses one of the richest collections of Islamic art in the world, alternatively, haggle away a few hours in the Khan el-Khalil Bazaar.

DAY 15 Cairo-London (Heathrow) with Egyptian.

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**Turkey:** sunburn, sage tea and the shock of the nude in a country where rambling is regarded as madness

## Why do only fools and hikers walk?

The stallholder's card read: "Turkish Delight — Turkish Delight, lovely jubbly". Fethiye market in southwest Turkey, with its trays of fresh spices, exotic fruit and vegetables and little mills for grinding coffee was a long way from the Peckham stamping-ground of Del Trotter. But the owner of the card evidently felt he had struck a chord. "I have Reliant Robin," he added.

I retreated as he proffered a free glass of apple tea and pointed to the bottom of his business card, which claimed: "As seen on the Holiday Programme".

Later I was to learn that offering tea is normal practice in hospitable Turkey and does not oblige anybody to buy anything. But on my first day I was still on my guard, having read too many holiday guides warning about harassment by Turkish men. In fact, one look at the skimpy bikinis and shorts on sale in Fethiye's shops would have confirmed how much more relaxed (or resigned) Turks in tourist areas have become towards Western fashions.

Fethiye, where the Aegean turns into the Mediterranean, is a sprawling market town with a wide bay, ringed by tree-covered mountains stretching back into what was once the ancient kingdom of Lycia. In 1957, almost the whole town was razed by an earthquake and most of it has been rebuilt with pleasing, low-rise white buildings with red roofs. Flowers and vines grow profusely, trained over balconies.

One of the best views of Fethiye is from the Lycian tombs cut into the rocks above the town. It is worth a short but steep climb in the heat to stand in the shadow of the Ionic columns guarding the



A Lycian sarcophagus bisects a street in Fethiye

tomb and take in the sweep of the bay, with its fishing boats moving across a startlingly turquoise sea.

Our first view of the town was, however, from a path high up in the mountains leading from Ocaikoy, a village of carefully restored holiday cottages complete with pool, restaurant and bars, where we were based for a week's walking. Our group of 13 had met for the first time the previous evening and were cautiously breaking the ice as we started our first walk (an easy one to break our legs in). The path was narrow, rocky and crumbling in places, and we fell into single file as it wound into the hills. Even at 10am the sun was hot, and we were grateful for our sunhats and sun-cream. Our skins were starting to redden as, after an hour, we stopped for a snack of dried fruit.

People swapped stories of walks they had done in Britain while absorbing the view of high, hazy-blue mountains and grass flecked with yellow

and blue flowers. For a while we were forced to adopt the pace of a herd of goats which emerged from the trees. Animals in this part of Turkey are impressively free-range with cows, goats and chickens allowed to roam at will along rough tracks, often supervised by small children equipped with nothing more commanding than a pair of tin cans.

Despite the heat (in May still nowhere near its ferocity), walking is often the most practical way to reach the remotest areas, the best beaches and the most spectacular views. We walked up steep cliff paths, high above white beaches and sea so blue that it was almost a disappointment to swim in it later and find it was colourless.

We walked away from the sea into the mountains, down through craggy pine forests with the flat, brown-and-green patchwork of the Xanthos valley opening out before us, and picnicked in an olive grove. Paths led through waist-high fields of waving



The magnificent lagoon at Olu Deniz, a favourite with brochure photographers and parties of hot, footsore walkers

corn laced with poppies and rich, red fields of tobacco and cotton.

Anything approaching an Ordnance Survey map is unknown in Turkey, where the

plotting and mapping of mountain paths was opposed by the military authorities until recently. Now walking is becoming popular, but waymarks and other reminders of civilisation scarcely exist, and losing your way can mean an uncomfortable night on the mountainside. Fortunately we were led by an experienced guide, Shirley Subasi who, with her right-hand man, Cengiz, had worked out the best routes by walking them and asking advice from local people. This advantage engendered slight feelings of Schadenfreude on the rare occasions that we met other walkers.

One unfortunate group who had just climbed the same steep, rocky path as us to reach the remote Kozgac district, discovered they faced a three-hour walk to the beach at Olu Deniz. One of the group was wearing nothing stouter than a pair of wedge-heeled sandals. Throughout the rest of the holiday, one or other of the group would say musingly: "I wonder if those people ever made it back?"

We had two not-so-secret weapons. One was a white minibus which crawled up and down the mountain tracks permanently in second gear. It carried our packed lunches, spare clothes and any of the party who had temporarily lost their energy. Hassan, its driver, always succeeded in meeting us exactly on time at whichever secluded beach, lagoon or canal Shirley had selected for our picnic.

The other secret weapon

was Shirley herself, an Englishwoman who spoke fluent Turkish and seemed to know everyone in the remotest villages. Some villagers found it difficult to understand why anyone would want to walk for pleasure rather than from necessity. But they were sympathetic. "Haven't you got a car?" one asked. Through Shirley, we were invited to eat our picnic lunch in mountain

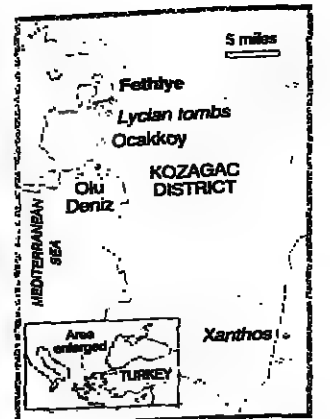
farmhouses or villages, always with offers of sage tea and an offer of the best seats.

Traditions die hard in such places, where the headscarf is still virtually universal for women and a father's main duty is to see his daughters married off with a dowry. But the modern world intrudes. Many of the villages are populated mainly by older people, and there are fears that

the villages will die as children leave to find jobs or to attend secondary school. Recently the government has attempted to keep people in villages by supplying running water and electricity, so they can continue to lead self-sufficient lives on the land.

After a week of seeing Turkish modesty in action in the villages (several of our party who were wearing shorts tied sarongs around their legs to make sure they did not offend at lunch), the Turkish bath in Fethiye came as a shock. The bath for tourists was mixed — and nude. The only thing protecting our modesty was a cotton wrap, which quickly became sodden and left little to the imagination. Male masseurs were on hand to scrub and soap and massage, a sight that was greeted with girlish squeals from the more retiring of our group. Two hours later, we agreed we would not have missed the experience for anything. As one of our group commented wryly: "We know each other pretty well after that."

**SARA MCCONNELL**  
The author was a guest of Simply Turkey.

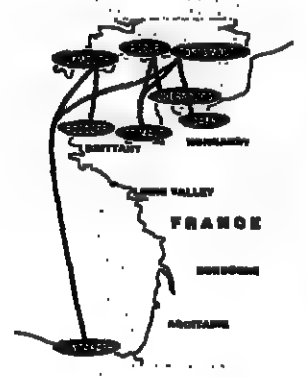


### FACT FILE

■ Simply Turkey (0181-747 101) organises three walking trips a year in Turkey, led by experienced trek leader Shirley Subasi. The next "Walks in Rural Turkey" trip is one week from Sept 29. The cost is £540 per person, which includes daily walks accompanied by the tour guide, local transfers, breakfast, picnic or taverna lunch, accommodation in self-catering cottages in Ocaikoy and direct flights from Heathrow to Dalaman. No single person supplements.

■ Simply Turkey also organises spring and autumn walking holidays in Crete, Corsica and Corfu.

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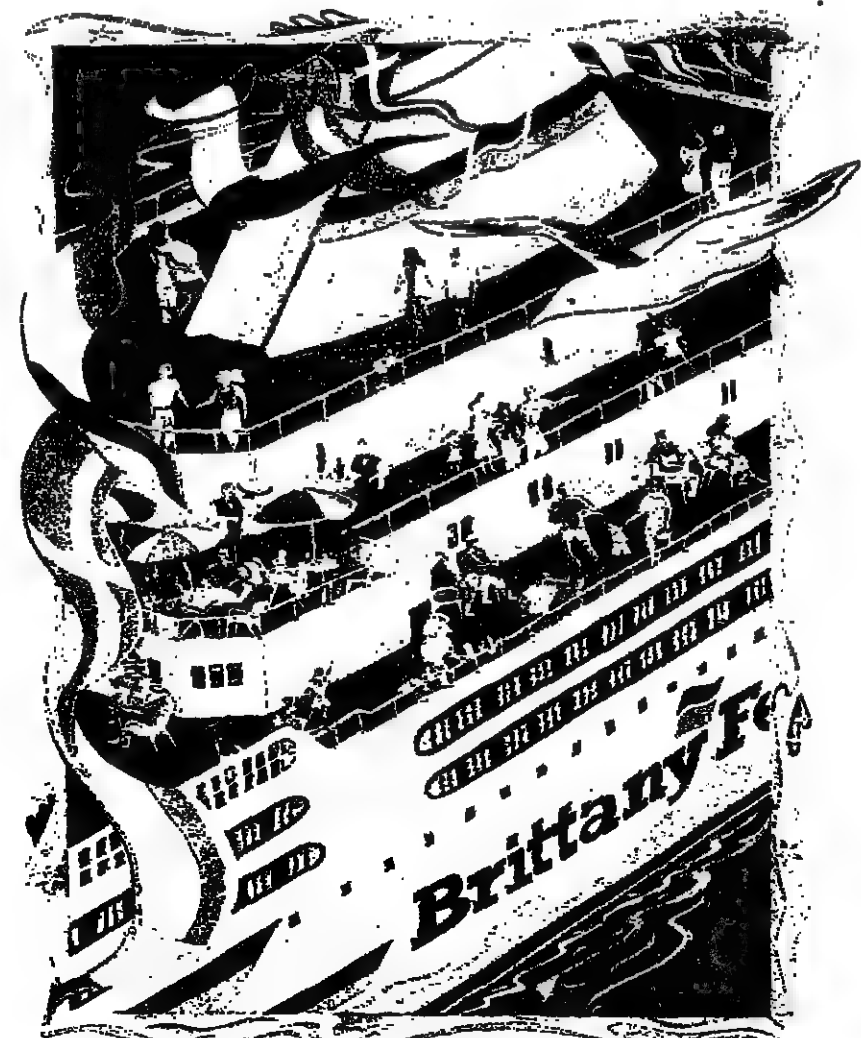
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train was trapped up to its



● The author was a guest of Regional Railways (0113-244 8133 or 01482 326033) and the Crown Hotel at Wetherall, four miles east of Carlisle, where a package through Superbreak (01904-679999) costs £65 a person a night, half-board.

(b) A swindle perpetrated by means of card-sharping or some form of confidence trick. Said to be an adaptation of the Spanish *banca*, a card-game similar to *monie*. "The bunco-artists from the lunatic fringe of the Democratic Party."

[illegible]

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Figure 1. Schematic diagram of the experimental setup. The subject is seated in a chair and views the screen through a video camera. The screen displays the target and the starting position of the hand. The hand is moved from the starting position to the target position. The distance between the starting position and the target position is the reach distance. The distance between the starting position and the target position is the reach distance. The distance between the starting position and the target position is the reach distance.



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## TRAVEL also appears on pages 26 & 28



## TRAVEL

25

International: hidden history revealed along the byways of Paris; autumn in New England or Aquitaine

## Faire le sightseeing

I decided to try one of the walking tours of Paris conducted by English guides who try to go beyond the obvious. Two main companies provide such walks: Paris Walking Tours and Paris Contact Guided Walks.

For those jaded by traditional tourist-packed sites, there are such obscurities as a tour of Hemingway's Paris, taking in favourite hotels and drinking dens around the Mouffetard district of the Latin Quarter, a patch also favoured by Orwell, Joyce and Balzac.

The "In Jefferson's Footsteps" tour starts at Concorde and follows Jefferson's time as American ambassador to France in the 18th century. Sites visited include the grand mansions where he partied and debated and, rather curiously, his daughter's school.

As a test I decided to try the St Germain des Prés Village tour, since it was on my doorstep and the streets were familiar. With the guide, Jill Daneels of Paris Contact, I discovered secret courtyards and plaques which I had missed when walking by, and doors which opened at the press of a buzzer, allowing anyone to peek inside.

The walk begins in the church of St Germain des Prés, once an abbey which covered the entire area between Rue St Benoit and Rue Jacob, parts of which date back to AD 542. The main church was consecrated in the 12th century, when it still had a wooden roof. Inside, the original architecture was painted in the 19th century by Hippolyte Flandrin to give what we would now describe as a Jocaasta Innes look — faded red, blue and grey-green designs painted on the pillars and ceilings.

During the revolution, the abbey was used to store explosives and two of its towers were blown up. The revolutionaries also executed the 316 monks remaining on the premises, in what is now a garden. Descartes is buried here — but the guide neglected to mention the intriguing fact that his head was stolen from Stockholm and travelled wide-

ly until it was reunited with his body in St Germain.

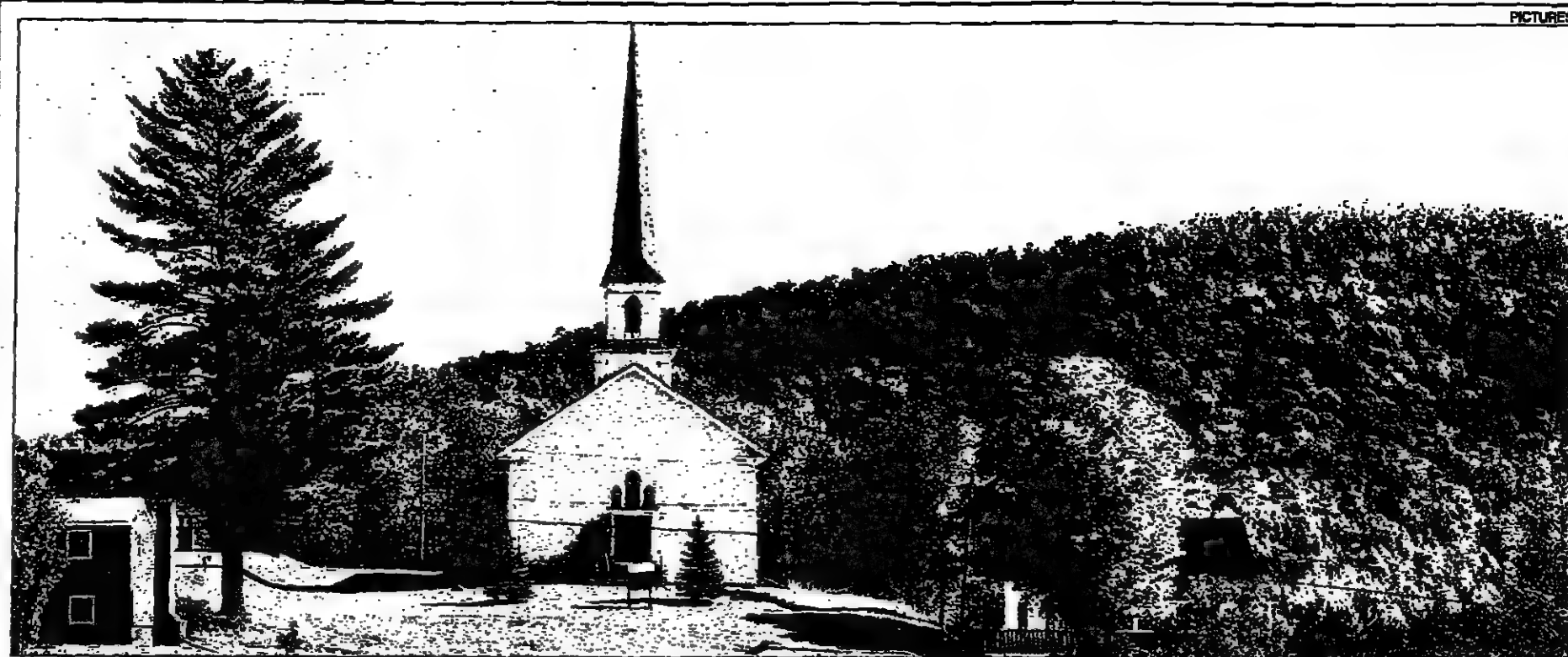
Indeed, my only complaint about the walk was that, although it was fine on proper history, it lacked a little in scurrious gossip through the ages. For instance, walking down Rue Mazarine, I am sure tourists would have enjoyed being shown the apartment where former President Mitterrand and his lover, Anne Pingeon, had secret trysts, eventually producing their illegitimate daughter, Mazarine.

The walk also covered the Café Flore, Les Deux Magots and the Brasserie Lipp and their one-time customers, from surrealists to Sartre, Trotsky to Chou en Lai.

Still following the old abbey walls, we went to the Delacroix museum in his old studio off the Place de Furstenberg, passing the apartment where Richard Wagner lived for a year, the hotel where Oscar Wilde died in exile, the scruffy house in Paris's narrowest street where Racine died, and George Sand's house. "She was famous for wearing trousers," the guide told the Americans, which was a fairly limited summary of her life.

Down the Passage St André de Commerce, filled with little shops and cafés, there were two good finds. Above the houses pokes out one of the remaining towers of the original city wall, which then enclosed the village of St Germain. Nearby is one of the finest courtyards in Paris, the Cour de Rohan, with three interlocking plant-draped squares, one of which was used by Dr Guillotin when testing his contraption on various unlucky sheep.

KATE MUIR



Irassburg, Vermont. Historic houses in the backwoods and along the shores of New England are available for summer and the fall from New England Country Homes

## Take a trip for the fall

OLD converted schoolhouses and artists' studios (including Norman Rockwell's), clapboard cottages and historic houses in New England are available throughout the summer and fall — September and October — from New England Country Homes (01328 856660). In rural or seaside locations, the properties are traditionally American, which means no kettles, eggcoops or duvets but room-sized bridges, outdoor platforms and barbecues. Prices include return flights to Boston with an overnight stay in a Boston hotel, car hire, two weeks' accommodation and insurance. A Vermont schoolhouse costs £875 each for four people, £1,170 each for two.

## Dinner party

GUESTS staying at the self-catering manor farm cottages in the Domaine de las Bourguies in Aquitaine will be treated to an autumn cuisine day hosted by owner Sylvie Orliac, including a visit to the market to hunt out the best oysters and to a local vintner for wine tasting. Back at the Domaine, Sylvie will demonstrate how to cook the regional specialities to be eaten at

dinner. The week's break from InnTravel (01653 628862) costs £127-£158 per person, self-drive, including the ferry crossing, accommodation and day out. Children under 14 free.

## Get some advice

STUDENTS planning adventure trips before returning to college in October, or their anxious parents, can get free advice at evening workshops by Explore Worldwide (01252 344161). The next evening, on July 29 at the Baden Powell House in Knightsbridge, London, deals with Nepal and trekking.

## South circular

THE highlight of Orient Line's (0171-409 2500) Antarctic Cruises for winter 1997/98 aboard the ice-strengthened 22,000-ton Marco Polo is the 26-day Antarctic circumnavigation from Ushuaia in South America to the little-known Ross Sea, arriving in New Zealand on February 11, 1998. En route are the US McMurdo Station, 736 miles from the South Pole, the huts at Cape Evans and Cape Royd used by early explorers, wildlife spotting and lectures from the likes of Sir

Edmund Hillary, who led the first crossing of the Antarctic in 1955, botanist David Bellamy and astronomer Dr Patrick Moore. The price, from £4,935, includes return flights

## Le web site

A COMPLETE information service for visitors to France is now on the Internet. The 2,000-page France Guide includes existing information available from the French Tourist Office, plus items on shopping, travel and motoring, regional pages, theme guides and interactive multilingual correspondence pages. To access the guide: <http://www.franceguide.com>

## Mandela tour

A 15-DAY tour "In the Footsteps of the President" is offered by South African Airways Holidays (01342 322525) visiting Nelson Mandela's birthplace, school and university, Robben Island prison where he spent many years, and the Victor Verster prison from which he eventually walked to freedom. The tour also includes wildlife watching, the Garden Route, Cape Town, Johannesburg and Soweto. 13 nights' accommodation and travel by air-

conditioned coach costs from £2,175. Return flights to the UK are approximately £695.

## Kept on ice

A GUARANTEED pre-Christmas skiing weekend on the Kitzsteinhorn glacier in Austria is offered from December 13-15 by Neilson through Thomas Cook shops (01733 335513). Staying in Kaprun at the foot of the glacier, skiers will have from about 11am on Friday until mid-afternoon on Sunday for skiing. The cost is from £199-£299, lift pass £49.

## Bit of culture

A PROGRAMME dedicated exclusively to the London theatre and arts is offered by Superbreaks (01904 679999), with a choice of 18 hotels and events which include theatres, rock, pop and classical concerts. Sunday and Monday nights at the Grafton hotel plus tickets for the new Martin Guerre production cost £119 per person.

## Top flights

AIR UK's (0345 666777) return fare between London City Airport and Amsterdam from August 19 to

September 8 is £49. Regent Holidays (0117-921 1711) is offering Air China return fares between Heathrow and Peking for £500, with an extra £150 to Xian and back. The new Swiss charter airline Edelweiss Air (01293 553717) has come up with a £79 return fare between London Luton and Zurich, with no minimum stay.

## Break away

FOUR nights for the price of three is on offer until August 28 from short break specialists Kiker Travel (0171-231 3333) at selected hotels in Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels and cities in Spain and Italy. A four-night break at Seville's Alvarez Quinto Hotel costs £447, a saving of £54 per person. All holidays include air travel or rail travel by Eurostar, and private transfers from the airport or railway station for a minimum of two people.

## Track trips

A NEW brochure from holiday giant Thomson (0171-200 8900) offers breaks to seven cities and Disneyland Paris travelling by Eurostar. Prices start at £99 for a night in Paris; one night in Disneyland Paris costs from £169 per adult, £99 per child, entrance fee included.

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Starting in September, we shall be inaugurating a direct, non-stop flight series with Royal Jordanian Airlines from London Gatwick to Amman which enables us to combine a visit to the rose red city of Petra with a relaxing stay in Agaba on the Red Sea. To mark the occasion we are making available a limited number of places at a special tariff from £395 per person in a twin.

Our visit to the Royal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan includes three nights in Petra at the Forum Guest House (situated close to the entrance to Petra), three nights in Agaba at the Alcazar Hotel and one night in Amman at the Philadelphia Hotel.

Ever since the Swiss explorer Burchard rediscovered Petra by chance in 1812, romantic travellers have made their way to Petra, the unique city of the Nabataeans, Romans and Crusaders.

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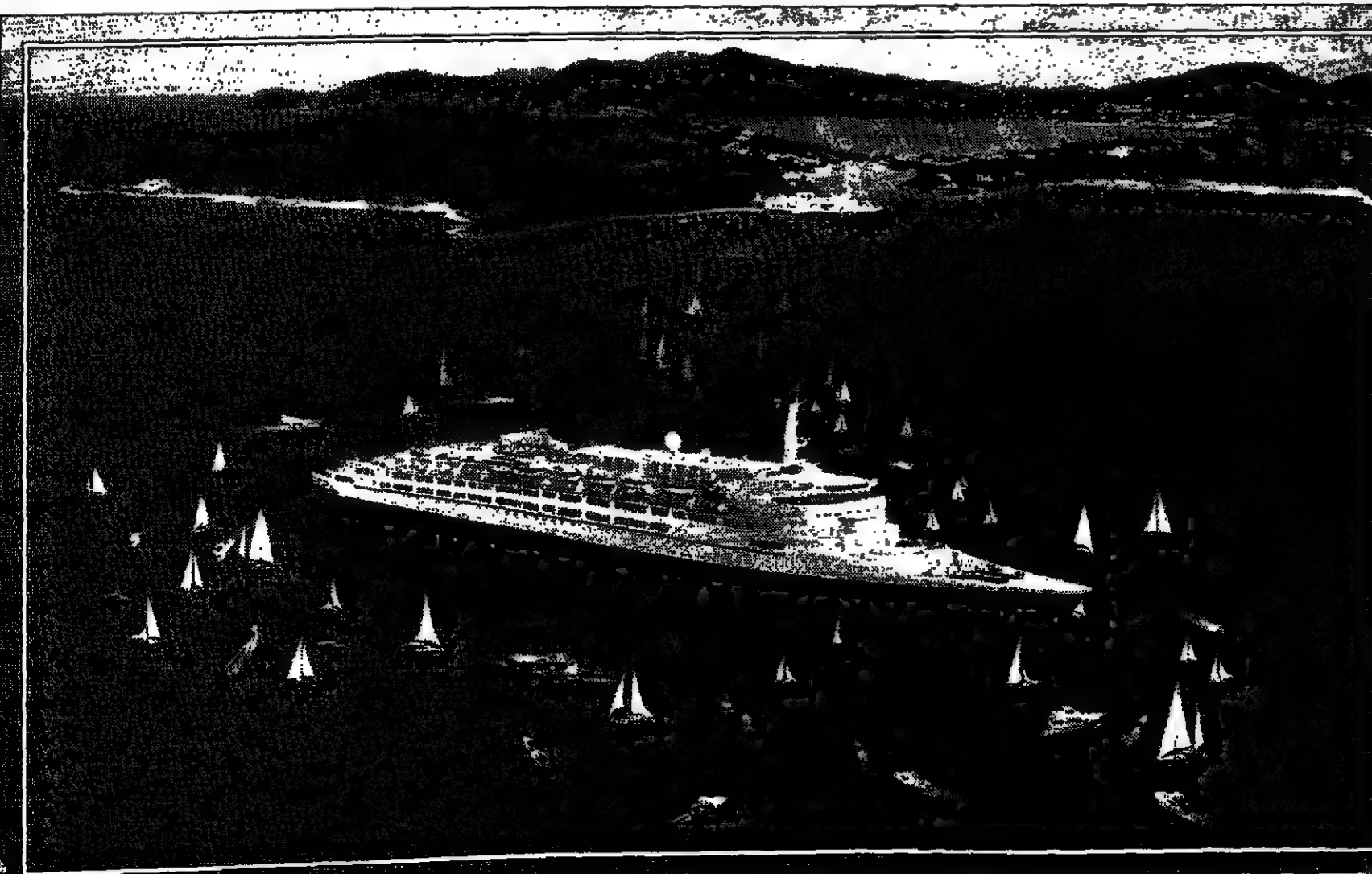
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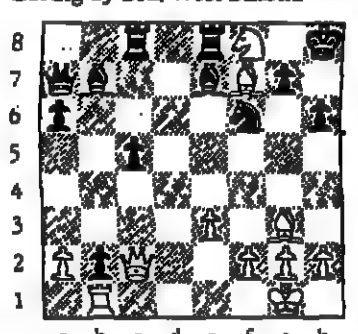






by Raymond Keene

## WINNING MOVE



No 839

4	J
5	C
6	H
7	E
8	C
9	T
10	F
11	F
12	C

9 Alumnus	10 Car	Title CHA
20 Tombola	23 Stain	
28 Candle		Ther ROB Engl
3 Obscene	4 Huff	
egg 15 Lob	17 Austria	
ale		

The winner is M.J. Harrington, of Warminster, Wiltshire

## PUNCHLINE



### INTELLECTUAL RECREATION AT A BEER-HOUSE

runners-up are R. Thomas, of  
Livingston, West Lothian.

### WORD-WATCHING

**By Philip Howard**

**SHAPOO**  
a. A massage  
b. A breed of sheep  
c. A free drink

**ASTBURY**  
a. A hat  
b. A sort of pot  
c. To play truant

**GALPON**  
a. An Andean pony  
b. A shed  
c. The plum-cherry

**BUNCO**  
a. A cowboy's bed  
b. A swindle  
c. To depart

**Answers on page 23**

## COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



**Competition winners receive a VTech Pre Computer Power Pad, worth £85**

put a child behind the wheel of any sports car — but if you want to capture their attention you could try trucks instead. **Amazing Truckology**, from Maris on PC CD-Rom, is aimed at users aged seven and over and should appeal to most young boys with lorries, large moving machines and anything else vaguely resembling Tonka Toys.

Tractors, cement mixers, fire engines, JCB-style diggers and combine harvesters are featured, parked up in their usual settings—farms, quarry, fire station and construction site. Children get a first-person perspective and can experience how it feels to sit in the cab of 15 trucks. Each can be taken for a spin around colourful 3D environments. For further background information there are video and cartoon clips as well as a large catalogue of details which can be called up on any of the vehicle. Seven-year-old users may not initially be attracted by fuel consumption or transmission facts, but they'll be fascinated by them soon enough. Amazing Trucloology

And now for something else which should appeal to children — our Cyberspace Twenty-Five competition. Three winners will each pick up a VTech Pre Computer Power Pad, worth £85.

centre with 35 different challenges largely based on spelling and counting. It also includes 1,000 trivia questions and an 80,000-word spell-check feature. The LCD screen covers four lines and the pad has a real QWERTY keyboard.

Intended for children aged nine and over, the Power Pad has ten word-games, five maths activities and, through the trivia questions, also explores science, geography and general knowledge. It was voted best electronic learning aid of 1995/96 by the British Association of Toy Retailers.

The competition is open to all readers aged seven to 13. To enter, you must complete, in your own words, a funny limerick starting with the line: "There was a little lap-top..."

Send your entries, which *must* include your name, age, address and home telephone number to: Cyberspace Twenty-Five, Computer Games and Pastimes, *Weekend*, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The closing date is midnight on Wednesday, July 31.

The judges' verdict is final and they will not enter into any additional correspondence.

"Keep on truckin'." Robert Crumb (1972).

**THE LISTENER CROSSWORD**

**No 3367: Slummer by Sabre**

THE 13 unclued lights are of a type, and ordered by a travelling knight. Each day's travel finishes on the first letter of an unclued light, and the following day's travel starts from the last letter of that light (with the exception that the first day starts in the top left-hand corner, and the last day finishes in the bottom right-hand corner). Each day's travel is a succession of knight's moves; the journeys are clued in the correct sequence. The central row in the finished diagram provides the answers to three questions: 'What is the name of the book?' (*ODQ* (2nd edition)). All clues are normal, but across and down answers appear in the diagram with a misprint of exactly one letter. *Chambers 93* is recommended; however, the combination form at Day 4 is not explicitly listed, one proper name is only given etymologically, and 2D (in *OED*) occurs under a variant spelling.

<b>DAYS</b>		
1	Dismast upset galleon, finally wrecked (6)	1
2	Courthouse hack seethes with rising anger (7)	2
3	Frank, hailless, recording square dances (8)	3
4	Jock's stitch could be worse by end of race (6)	2
5	Originally protecting Auckland hilltop? (3)	1
6	Here be hags, pray: upsetting beast (7)	1
7	Back of gallery approves laughter (4)	3
8	Centre of dying cell is breaking down: thus? (9)	3
9	They start early, playing Haydn at half measure (5)	1
10	Pajamas ripped with anger (9)	1
11	Feeding cod-fish swallows one child (8)	4
12	Seraglio, where bird is in	4

3 At least one US city has hold  
on women (6)

4 Fabulous beast, one  
safeguarding the door (4)

**ACROSS**

1 Open talk increases on mountain-top (7)  
2 Thrashing indigent heavily (6)  
3 Shave oriental procurator (7)  
4 Trees partly indicate a stream (4)  
5 Everybody on small island gets fish (5)  
6 Eyeshadow: "black diamond you hear" (4)  
7 Homosexual German gets affirmation (3)  
8 Kind of gas to cause pain in burst ears (4)  
9 Academician's zip is gone (3)  
10 Last of bolt sewed up into rough garments (6)  
11 Scatter diamonds — piles dispersed (6)  
12 Extra took too much heroin (3)  
13 Jack's cry — it starts game bird (4)  
14 A record in steeple climbing (5)  
15 Has the power in US to fire depth charge (3)  
16 Regret returning American blower (5)  
17 Aired again some rarer animations (5)  
18 Tidebird shrink sees rector in love (4)  
19 A guy destroyed tree for rubber (7)  
20 Cutting out of breast regenerated goddess (6)  
21 Cold star following one's

**DOWN**

- 1 With difficulty, old fox hunter runs away (5)
- 2 Hang its consequences when drunk? (7)
- 3 Heavenly radiator from boat wife replaced with second (6)
- 4 An upright girl? (6)
- 5 Set tree-trunk as crosspiece in scaffolding (6)
- 6 Ethnic music leads to koto wailing with highest pitch (5)
- 7 Left protective shield to lawman? (6)
- 8 Refuse container has rough point righted (6)
- 9 Accuse count who's cared for heraldic device (6)
- 10 It's not permitted to eat outside: shivering results (6)
- 11 Wesleyan's bad address, way at end of alley? (7)
- 12 It's radical topping homely teapot-cover with bit of lace (8)
- 18 Diminutive tenor cheesed off ladies in Ulm (8)
- 20 Descriptive of big power in Government House (3)
- 22 Accomplish shine at last in a knife? (7)
- 24 Candles in square arrangements (6)
- 25 Tight tomboy seen in gym (6)
- 26 Stranger following bishop's lead would become drunker (6)
- 27 Light rifles, one hears, send in Alpinist's hand? (6)
- 29 South Island follows crazy dance (6)
- 30 Sandy with tip of blade rends necks? (6)
- 31 Slang to be done away with in article (5)
- 36 Stone slab finishing is not

### Solution to No 3364: Sleeve Note by Monk

Title — Sleeve + note = manche + la. *La Manche* = ENGLISH CHANNEL (2).

**Theme** — Initial letters of redundant words spelt out A COLLINS ROBERT FRENCH DICTIONARY. Double across clues gave five English lights (1, 6, 13, 15 and 18, entered 'north' of the 21) together with their French translations (respectively, 40, 39, 37, 38 and 27, entered 'south' of the 21). Crossing the 21 was the FOLKESTONE-EUROTUNNEL-CALAIS link, the elements of which resolved several ambiguities in the entry of 5 and 24 and 15, 18.

The winner is M.J. Harington, of Warminster, Wiltshire

The two runners-up are R. Thomas, of Bercloux, France, and James

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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40					41						

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Page 3



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Page 5

SATURDAY JULY 20 1996

# Drivers who put their egos on a plate

**Kevin Eason**  
 marvels at the  
mania for  
personal plates  
and the prices  
they bring

Trucks packed with mopeds run an unlikely money trail from Birmingham to Northern Ireland. They set out regularly to Coleraine with two-wheelers but return with number plates that could be worth £2,000 to drivers eager to join motoring's biggest fashion craze.

Personalised number plates are the billboards that shout out the personality of a driver in an age when every car looks as though it has come from the same jelly mould.

Once motorists would have decorated their cars with furry dice and go-faster stripes to make them stand out from the crowd; now they buy a combination of numbers and letters that may simply bear their initials or be composed of some bizarre word-play.

Next month more than 475,000 motorists who want the world to know that they have a new car are likely to buy one with the new P- registration plates. But the driver who hasn't a new car can still make a statement with a personal number, either wacky or bizarre.

Why they want one, nobody knows or even cares — especially the Government, which relaxed the rules on registrations to release a flood of new number plates onto the market six years ago.

Compared with the effort of privatising British Rail or the nuclear industry, it is the easiest money the Treasury has ever made. Cecil Parkinson, then Transport Secretary, unlocked the vaults in 1989 to tens of thousands of unused numbers and discovered a nation apparently painting to furnish its cars with personalised plates.

Sales so far total more than £200 million. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has sold more than 400,000 numbers and is still trawling its records for more to issue. The B prefix went on sale in January and has brought in £5 million while the highest price paid was £235,000 for KJ NGS, at an auction three years ago.

Treasury officials simply sit back and count the cash as it rolls in from motorists eager for the numbers and letters that will pick out their humble hatchback from the rest. A whole new industry has sprung up selling another estimated £200 million worth of numbers annually.

It is a most bizarre pursuit, although some motorists are prepared to pay anything — sometimes more than the car is worth — for the numberplate they want.

Tracey Clark, manager of Midland Registrations in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, says: "We have all types of motorist coming here for numbers. We sell plates as cheaply as £99 — but we sold one, RDS, for £20,000."

Midland has developed its



Steve Waldenberg, proud owner of a 1969 Triumph 1300 with his initials on the plate and secretary of the 600-member Registration Numbers Club. "We are not," he says, "like trainspotters"



Prestige number plates on sale at Christie's. In 1989 the registration IA fetched £160,000 and now trade in personal tags is big business

own golden trail to Northern Ireland, with an oddball collection scheme which involves storing more around 300 mopeds ready to make the journey to the province's licensing authorities.

Northern Ireland has highly attractive registrations featuring Z, such as BAZ (lots of fun for Basils and Bards) and the latest KAZ series (even more hilarity for Karens and Karols, if there are any misspelt Essex girls out there).

Midland captures a quota by sending the unregistered mopeds to Northern Ireland and registering them with the authorities there. When the mopeds come home, the numbers are transferred to customer cars. The plates sell for

between £99 and £2,000. Steve Waldenberg has his own Irish-bought plate — with SIW for his initials — on his 27-year-old Triumph 1300. Waldenberg is secretary of the Registration Numbers Club, an unlikely collection of 600 people whose hobby has apparently dispersed with the glories of classic car design and style to become fixated by the oblong plates that sit on the cars' bumpers.

"We are not like trainspotters," Waldenberg protests, although the club recently had its annual rally in Staffordshire, where members gathered, parked their cars and... well, looked at each other's number plates.

"Owning a custom plate is a form of one-upmanship," he adds. "Cars these days look the same, so there is a practical aspect — you can spot yours by the number plate."

Buying personalised plates has another advantage: the P-plate seems destined to be the last annual registration change, a scheme that has caused more than enough chaos, forcing 25 per cent of motor industry sales into a single month just because drivers are so determined to show off their new number.

But personalised plates can disguise the age of a car, bus or truck. When the DVLA released special P-plates last month, among the first in the

queue was a breakdown company which bought successive P2, P3 and P4 TOW plates for its lorries.

If only the rest of Britain's motorists had their eyes on such a logical and conservative choice, for the DVLA has discovered dozens whose quest was for a more spicy selection from this August's batch of specials. Officials were forced to issue a polite message to go away to dozens who put P155 OFF high on their hit list.

DVLA officials, ever wary of the problems of taste some plates could cause, have kept that number back on the computer, as they have with some other sensitive combinations. There are no plates that have the letters GOD, for ex-

ample. And 666 — with its satanic connotation — was for some time withheld.

However, there are plenty of plates of dubious taste still out there: one motorist has got PEN 15, although he was pulled over by police who accused him of obscenity, and 4 KOF also exists somewhere.

Expressing your personality with a plate is one thing — such as the vicar who acquired A20 REV and PC 428 in Worcester who pursued 428 COP; but maybe Debbie Brooke, an air hostess, was a little too up front in expressing her — uh — personality when she paid £4,000 last month for her special plate. It was 36C, her bra size — and she didn't even own a car.

BEWARE THE SMALL PRINT

## Policy bombshell hits terror victims

When Mel Williams's car was smashed and covered in debris by the IRA bomb which ripped through Manchester last month, he was confident his comprehensive policy would cover the damage.

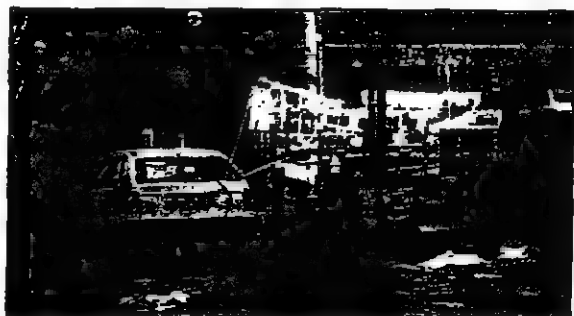
He was quick to telephone his insurance company, Landmark, and tell them of the damage to his Toyota Corolla, though he could not retrieve it from the cordoned-off town centre. But he got a shock: "They told me I wasn't covered at all," he says.

Like most comprehensive policies, his insurance company explained, his

stated that damage due to "any consequence of war, invasion... [or] rebellion" would not be covered. "They told me that they classed the bombing in Manchester as a rebellion from Northern Ireland and rebellions are not covered," he says.

Still uncertain he contacted the AA who described his insurance company's explanation as "nonsense" and reassured him that the company should pay for the damage. He took their advice and his car has subsequently been declared a write-off and Landmark has paid up.

Continued on page 2



IRA claims responsibility, but insurers may deny it

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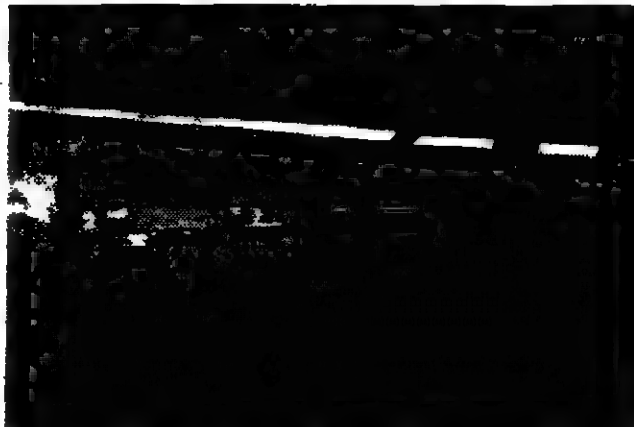
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## AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **London**  
A302 Westminster Bridge; closed from 9pm Friday until 5am Monday for reconstruction work, use Lambeth as an alternative.  
A100 City; Byward Street down to single lane eastbound for reconstruction work at the Great Tower Street junction. Long delays.  
A118 Forest Gate; Romford Road down to single lane for widening work between Green Street and Katherine Road with temporary lights at weekends.  
A503 Tottenham; restrictions on Ferry Lane for major reconstruction of the River Lea Bridge at Mill Road. Temporary lights. Long delays into Tottenham one-way system.  
A408 Shepherds Bush; delays on Askew Road. Temporary lights.  
● **South-East**  
M4 junctions 12-14; overnight lane closures from 10pm until 6am between Theale and Hungerford will take the motorway down to a single lane at times.  
A4020 New Denham; works between the Denham roundabout and the Coach and Horses pub with temporary lights off peak.  
A425 Banbury; lane restrictions on the Southern Road.  
M20 junction 8; lane closed.  
A248; restrictions west of dual carriageway work with 40mph speed limit.  
M25 junctions 8-10; major widening work from Godstone to Reigate with 30mph speed restriction.  
● **South-West**  
M5 junctions 17-20; lane restrictions both ways between Bristol West and Clevedon especially over the Avonmouth Bridge with 50mph speed restriction.  
A354 Milborne St Andrew; temporary lights.  
A417 Brockworth; lane closures on the Brockworth bypass.  
A3062 Bath; delays on Ralph Allen Drive at peak periods.  
A3102 Swindon; major roadworks at the Mannington roundabout with traffic down to a single lane. Long delays.  
● **Midlands and East Anglia**  
A617 Temple Normanton; major works between Chesterfield and the M1 with 40mph speed restriction.  
Hampton Lovett; temporary lights and 10mph speed limit.  
A6 Leicester; roadworks on the London Road between Mayfield Road and Stoughton Road.  
A6 Loughborough; contraflow both ways between Warren Lane and Netherfield Lane.  
M18 junctions 5-4; contraflow with two lanes eastbound and one lane westbound between Barnetby and Scawby.  
A1 Coddington; lane restrictions between Coddington and Newark.  
A137 Ipswich; lane closures on West End Road for bridge repairs.  
A41 Tipton; Black Country Spine Road closed northbound for repairs from Navigation roundabout to Parkway roundabout. Diversion.  
● **North**  
A167M Newcastle; Central motorway down to single lane each way for work between the New Bridge Street roundabout and just north of Jesmond Road.  
M6 junctions 20-21; roadworks and contraflow with three narrow lanes in both directions.  
M6 junctions 30-32; lane closures in both directions (Monday-Friday).  
M1 junction 47; major roadworks with lane closures and a 30mph speed restriction.  
M62 junction 28; lane restrictions and 30mph speed limit for roadworks.  
M18 junction 1-M1; contraflow between Rotherham and Thurncroft. Long peak-time delays.  
● **Wales**  
A470 Llyswent; temporary lights at Llangedd Hall.  
M4 at junctions 23A-24; contraflow and lane closures with a 50mph speed limit.  
A4042 between Pontypool and Little Mill; lane closures and contraflows. Delays at peak periods.  
A472 Pontypool; contraflow and lane closures between Miskin and Pencoed with 50mph speed limit.  
A482 Abercromby Upper Bridge closed with traffic being diverted via the A487.  
● **Scotland**  
A90 Aberdeen; restrictions at the roundabout on either side of the bridge of Dee.  
M9 junction 15; westbound traffic restricted at Townhead to three narrow lanes with slip road closures.  
A90 Longforgan; lane closures in both directions.  
A725 East Kilbride Expressway Total closure of the westbound off-ramp to Main Street, Blantyre.  
A761 Paisley; lane restrictions at Ferguslie in both directions.  
● **Northern Ireland**  
A3 Portadown; restrictions on the Northway at junction with Mill Avenue.  
A21 Comber; restrictions on Hillsborough Road with delays likely.  
A5 Milltown; lane closures on Strabane Road with temporary lights between Slon Mills and Newtonstewart.

The Government's plan to produce journey times for roads is a PR nonsense that will create a speeder's charter

## A timetable for turmoil

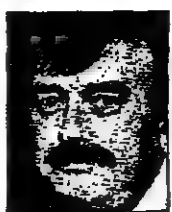
The Government's plan to issue league tables of the most and least-stressed roads, together with an indication as to how long a given journey should take, comes as no surprise to me. It only confirms that someone at the Department of Transport has been eating infected beef.

The trouble with this kind of madcap initiative is that it tends to infect others. The motoring organisations, normally bastions of good sense, have on this occasion blown a fuse: they have given the move a guarded welcome and added a touch of their own.

Both the AA and the RAC apparently want rebates for drivers if estimated journey times are not met. Edmund King of the RAC is quoted as saying: "Passengers on the railways get money back if trains are late, why not do the same if the road network is not up to scratch?"

I can only think of about 300 instant reasons for not doing that. Ed. For a start, how would such a system be administered? What proof would there be that a driver had

### DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

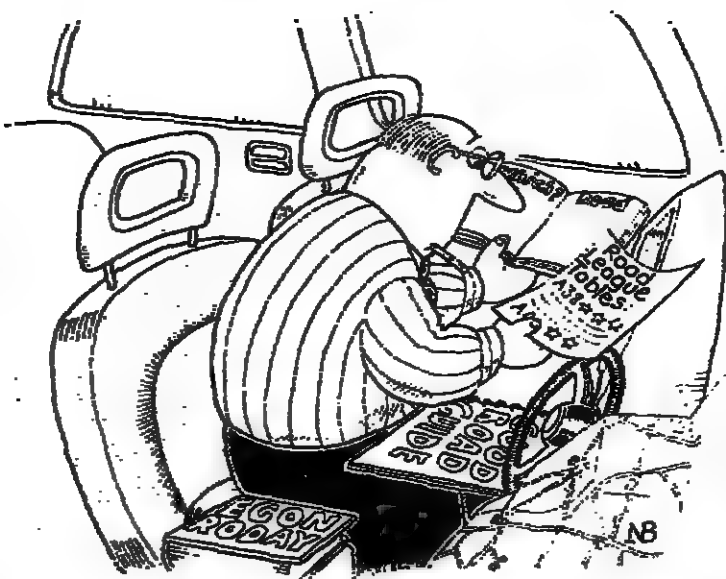


Peter Barnard

made the journey at all, let alone taken more time than it was supposed to take?

The difference between trains and cars is that trains travel on tracks at fixed speeds between fixed points. They rarely encounter a queue of trains in front, or five miles of cones, or a driver who has stopped for a picnic beside the track.

There is a particular problem about this scheme which poses road-safety questions. Motorways are



generally very safe, but the one danger they present is that drivers assume a given journey will take a given length of time.

If I drive from London to Bristol, I expect that journey to take two hours. Research has shown that a delay caused by an accident or a contraflow system will not affect the driver's perception of the journey time: he or she will simply increase their speed in order to counteract the effects of the delay.

But at least at the moment the driver has to take the blame for that. The publication of journey timetables, due in 1998, will simply reinforce a bad habit. We will start to blame "them" for something that is our fault. The plan is thus dangerous as well as crazy.

A table produced by the AA shows that journey times have lengthened between last year and this. London-Liverpool, for example, took 3hrs 57mins last year but takes 4hrs

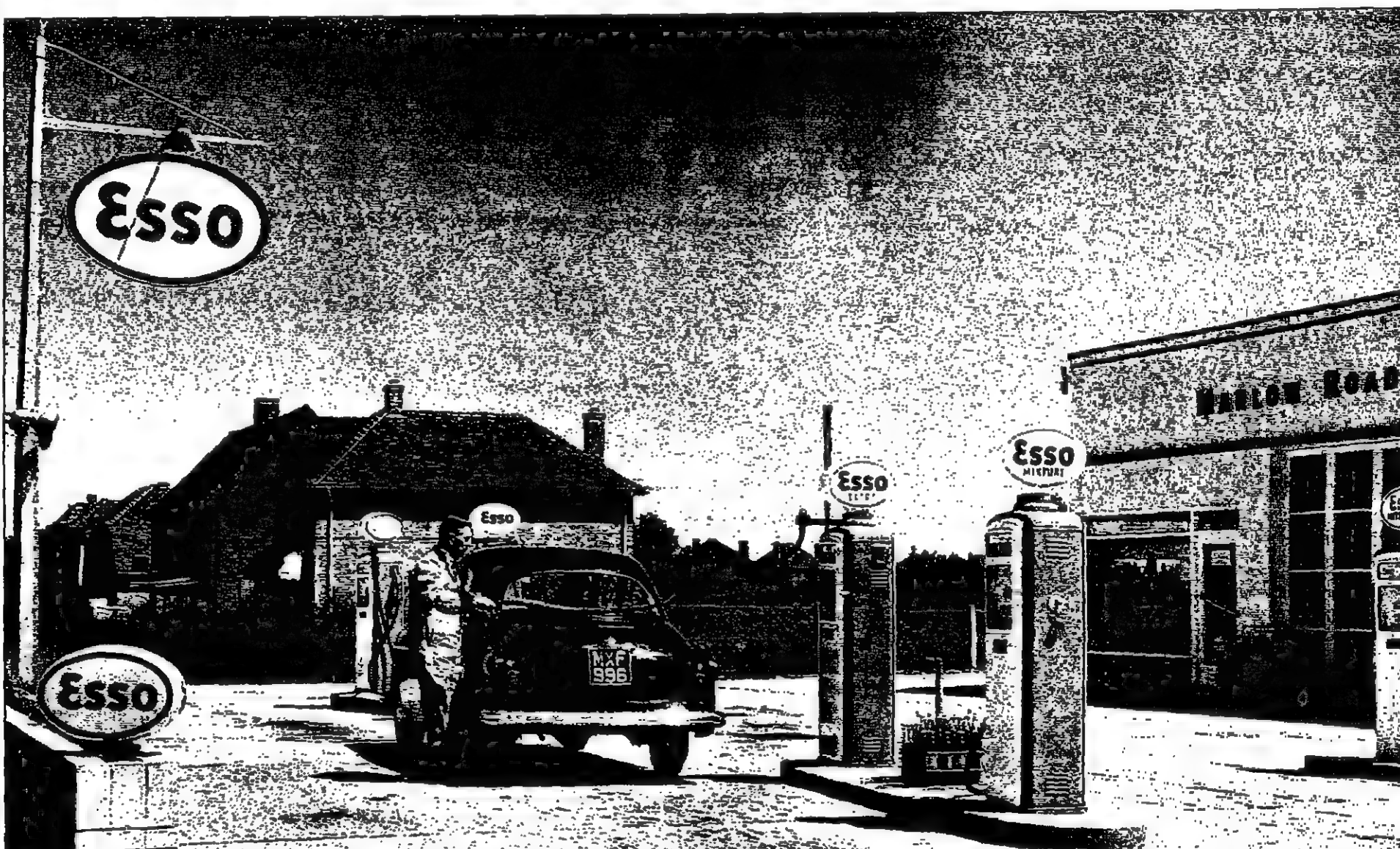
42mins this year. I know you don't think it takes that long, but of course the time is calculated from city centre to city centre, wherein lies the nub of the problem.

In the ten years since 1982, the number of cars doubled but the road network increased by only 17 per cent. There is little hope of those proportions improving because road-building is now out of fashion. Not that building roads would necessarily help, because the key areas which cause longer journeys are in cities, where road-widening is rendered almost impossible because of existing limitations. London's Victoria Embankment, one of the slowest crawls known to motoring, could only be widened by narrowing the Thames (an unlikely prospect).

League tables, target journey times and all the rest of the gobbledygook do not, therefore, amount to a row of beans. This latest scheme is pure public relations, much like the redesignation of the A38 in Devon as an "expressway".

This plan only delays the evil day when a proper public transport system will have to be put in place to get people off the roads. Of course, that will cost money and require political nerve and imagination. So don't hold your breath. An office block full of pen-pushers producing league tables is not a solution, it is a substitute for doing nothing. But only just.

Tens of thousands of cars could be forced off the road, says Vaughan Freeman



Forecourt future: classic car owners say unleaded fuel could wreck the valves of their engines. They argue that the clean-air proposals will have no real environmental effect

As many as 80,000 classic and historic cars and 50,000 vintage motorcycles could be forced off the roads by new clean-air proposals to scrap leaded fuel.

The proposals, outlined this week and likely to be in force within four years, also mean that a further two million motorists driving cars built in the 1980s will either have to scrap them, have them converted at a cost of around £200 or else use fuel additives.

Classic car lovers are furious, claiming the move is no more than a public relations ploy which will make no measurable difference to the cleanliness of the nation's air.

If adopted, the European Commission proposals could put Peter Glover's charming fleet of prewar cars out of action. Glover, chairman of the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs, owns a brace of Alvis 1250s dating from 1927, as well as a 1924 Vauxhall 30/98. He covers around 4,000 miles a year in each car, but that would end if the only fuel on sale was unleaded. The alternative, he says, would be to use unleaded additives, or to commission the building of new engines at around £4,000 per car.

"Banning leaded fuel would curtail the use of cars like mine," he says. "We would have to engineer a different type of cylinder head or engine block with hardened valve seats, or use fuel additives which are unproven."

"Vehicles built before 1950 in particular will be seriously affected because their engines have valve seats made of soft iron which are sited in cast-iron cylinder heads."

The use of lead in petrol was introduced in the mid 1920s. It lubricates the valve seats to prevent excessive wear. Without the lead in petrol, the valve seats quickly become worn and damaged.

## Leaded petrol ban fuels fear for aged motors

Glover adds: "Most postwar cars can be converted to run on unleaded fuel by having hardened valve seats fitted, but that is not possible on many cars, particularly those built in the 1920s and 1930s. A lot of these vehicles do not have a detachable cylinder head, but a cylinder head and engine block cast all in one. The valves in such an engine are all very close together and sited effectively at the end of a long tunnel which is often inaccessible."

There are probably around 80,000 pre-1940 cars in Britain, 30,000 of which are used regularly, and there are another 50,000 motorcycles of the same age, 10,000 of which are used regularly.

He says that even if every one of those vehicles was to run on the nation's roads all at once, the impact on the environment, amid a national vehicle population now exceeding 25 million, would be insignificant.

Millions of everyday cars will also need to be adapted, says David McConnell, of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. "By the year 2000, current projections are that there will be at the most 2.8 million cars still running on leaded fuel, out of a total car population of 26.2 million cars, some 3.4 million of which are likely to be diesel."

"Of the 22.8 million petrol-

engined cars, 16 million are likely to be unleaded, and 40 per cent of the remaining 4.8 million, at a conservative estimate, will be able to be adapted to run on unleaded."

The two million motorists able to convert their cars will each have to pay around £200 at today's prices to do so. Head of AA Research and Materials Testing, John Stubbs says: "The problem is that the plain cast iron of older cars, such as Minis and MGs, was not heat-treated and is relatively soft and prone to being eroded by petrol without lead."

"As the soft valve seat is eroded in the cylinder head, the valve clearances disappear because the valve goes up into

the head. The valve will not be seating properly and will not be conducting heat away from the cylinder head so that the material of the valves begins to burn away. As a result the engine loses compression and runs slower and slower."

For most engines though says Stubbs, conversion should not be a problem: "It is a straightforward job to have valve seat inserts put in. The cylinder head is taken off, a ridge is bored into the valve seat, and an insert of heat resistant alloy is put in. The other option might be additives but in the long term the answer would be valve seat inserts, costing around £200."

Old car enthusiasts are watching with interest how their counterparts in New Zealand, where leaded petrol

was banned earlier this year, are coping using additives to mimic the role of lead in fuel. Peter Henley, chairman of the Vintage Sports Car Club's fuels sub-committee, believes effective additives could be developed, but argues: "The most satisfactory solution, given the number of cars in Britain that use leaded, would I think be a postponement of the ruling, allowing a gradual decrease in the demand for leaded fuel as the number of cars needing it falls."

Bruce Petter, director of the Petrol Retailers Association, says, "I think it is inevitable that the European Commission proposal will be adopted, and I also think beyond doubt that it is desirable."

From a retail point of view it is not a problem to do the necessary transfer of pumps over from leaded to unleaded fuel. It will help distribution, and make life easier in the future with the design and layout of service stations."

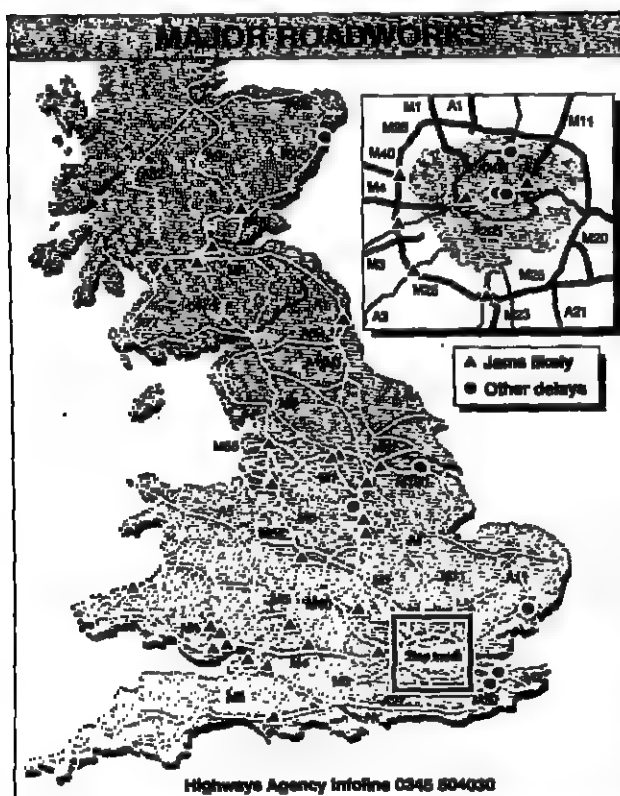
The proposed moratorium on leaded fuel is part of a package of clean-air proposals drawn up by the European Commission following advice from the World Health Organisation, and research by the EC and the European oil and motor industries under the umbrella of the European Auto-Oil programme.

Continued from page 1

Most car owners whose vehicles were burned, damaged or destroyed by the Manchester bomb should have had no trouble making a claim, unless they had no more than third-party insurance. According to the Association of British Insurers, damage caused by hostilities "including civil war, whether declared or not" is not covered in insurance policies but most companies were taking a sympathetic view.

Riots are different though: many insurers were waiting to hear whether the trouble in Trafalgar Square following England's semi-final match against Germany during Euro 96 would be officially declared a riot because they might be able to reclaim payouts from the Government if it is. In theory, insurance companies could still make a counter-claim against the police, who have a legal duty to quell riots, although that is unlikely.

Up to now insurance companies are treating customers caught up in disturbances sympathetically and the Insurance Ombudsman has received no complaints. But the ABI says that it is too early for problems to surface and cases similar to Williams's could well still turn up.



Highways Agency hotline 0345 804030

**QUALITY USED CARS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES**

95N BMW 323i Coupe Man, Blue, Alloy, CD, Elec./S/Roof, P.A.S., 5K	£18,975
95M Volvo 940 2.3 SE Turbo Estate Man, 7 Seater, Metallic Red, Elec./S/Roof, Alloy, P.A.S., 13K	£16,925
94M BMW 316i Coupe Auto, Bright Red, P.A.S., Alloy, 22K	£14,575
92J Land Rover Discovery TDI S 2.5 Man, 7 Seater, Metallic Grey, Del./S/Roof, P.A.S., Alloy, 45K	£13,575
94L Mercedes C-Class 1.8 Man, Black, P.A.S., Elec./Mirrors, F.S.H., 50K	£12,975
94M Omega CDX 2.5 V6 Man, Blue, P.A.S., Air Con, 58K	£12,975
92J BMW 318i Convertible, Red, P.A.S., Alloy, F.S.H., 22K	£12,975
94L Mazda MX6 Coupe Auto, Metallic Red, Elec./S/Roof, P.A.S., Alloy, A.B.S., 50K	£12,775
95L Rover 220 Turbo Coupe Man, Tinted Blue, Green Leather, S/Roof, P.A.S., 15K	£12,575
92K BMW 320i SEi 4dr Man, Metallic Red, Elec./S/Roof, P.A.S., Alloy, 38K	£11,975
95J V.W. Golf 2.0 GTI 16v, Metallic Blue, Elec./S/Roof, P.A.S., Alloy, 55K	£8,575
96N Renault Clio RN 1.9 Diesel 5dr, Red, P.A.S., 2K	£8,575

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### AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

HITTING 100 mph in UNDER A SECOND...  
A TOP FUEL DRAGONER BURNS FUEL AT 24 GALLONS PER HOUR AND TOPS AT 25 A GALLON!

USING MODIFIED TRACTOR PARTS THE 1954 STANWARD VANGUARD WAS BORN AS FIRST DIESEL-ENGINEED FAMILY CAR.

DUNLOP ONCE MANUFACTURED THOUSANDS OF INFLATABLE RUBBER SHEDMAN TANKS DESIGNED TO COMBUST WITH GERMAN BOMBERS.

IN 1965 FERRARIS ONCE FIRST SECOND AND THIRD AT LE MANS. THE FOLLOWING YEAR FORD DID IT WITH THE GT40.



The stunning Elise returns the troubled carmaker to its forte — lightweight sportsters, says Kevin Eason

## Spartan star tips the scales Lotus's way

Romano Artioli was obviously a lot wittier than any of us imagined. All the time he was holding out for a top price — reported to be as much as £60 million — for Lotus and the motoring world scoffed at his optimism.

What he knew and we didn't was all about Elise, the new sports car from the Norfolk company he bought from General Motors. For the Elise could change the fortunes of a company which has been hard-pressed ever since its founder, Colin Chapman, died in 1982. Without his charismatic leadership, the Formula One team has disappeared and the carmaking side of the company has had to exist effectively on selling one model, the Esprit, which has been in production in various guises for 20 years.

But Chapman would have loved the Elise simply because it takes Lotus back to its roots when the company made spartan sports cars full of character and performance.

Forget all those modern notions that cars should have carpets and radios and buttons to press: the Elise has none of that nonsense. The Elise is so bare, it is the bikini-wearer of the motoring world; a near-naked car so scantily dressed it cannot even pretend not to have any frills because there is nowhere to hang them, anyway.

If you are clutching your building society book with £20,000 to throw away on a toy, stop making comparisons between the Elise and every other sports car on the road — from the MGF to the Mazda MX-5 — because it isn't like anything else on the road.

For a start, the fiddly cloth hood will have your thumbs washed in Elastoplast. Sam Brown, Lotus's public relations man, and I struggled for ten minutes undoing catches and pushing and pressing bars into place before we gave up and he took a collection of bits back to his office.

Climbing into the car was a bit of a shock because you actually do climb in: the tiny door is no more than a pretence of normality because it masks a high ledge over which you clamber on to a thin, stiff seat. Only the driver's seat is adjustable, forwards and backwards, facing a tiny steering wheel (no airbag) and two white dials, a speedo and rev counter.

Sitting inside the extraordinary aluminium chassis, a box-shaped spaceframe made by Danish aluminium specialists, Hydro, who glue it together rather than weld, you are surrounded by two composite "clam-shell" pieces of bodywork which are hung on to the frame. The spartan feel was emphasised by bare metal everywhere — no carpets, no traditional armrests or reassuring pockets.

For a moment, I was disconcerted: perhaps the trim chaps had forgotten some vital bits and Sam would come dashing out of his office clutching pieces of leather and wood to screw on to the dashboard.

No, I was all on my own and wondering about this back-to-nature motoring experience. Until I fired up the Rover 1.8-litre engine — the one that comes from the MGF — shifted the metal gear stick into first and let up the drilled metal clutch pedal. Then I was in something as close to motor-ing heaven as you can get... in Norfolk, anyway.

The driving experience is race car meets the roads. There is only 118 brake horse power at most from the mid-mounted engine, but the Elise weighs just 690 kilograms — more than 300 kilos less than an MGF — so there was almost nothing to propel apart from my over-tuned chump clothed in cap and anorak.

There was no need to learn the car's quirks and foibles because there were none. The Elise embodies the simplest philosophy for sportscar motoring: just put your backside on the seat and drive.

Traction was immediate, the rear wheels gripping hard with no wheelspin to make the official 0 to 62mph time of 5.9 seconds seem understated (in fact, one magazine recently tested the Elise from 0 to 30mph at just 1.8 seconds).

Forget the statistics though, for the joy of the Elise is in the driving, every response and turn accurate and immediate. There was the occasional pot-hole-induced thump from the suspension but the chassis felt rigid and well-behaved, the handling as good as anything I have ever driven.

Response to the Elise is so overwhelming that this year's allocation of 400 cars is already sold out, each with a £1,000 deposit. Only 800 cars are scheduled to leave the factory at Hethel, near Norwich, next year and Lotus is wary of being persuaded to step up output: it remembers the pain of its financially burnt fingers when it launched the much-applauded Elan, unfortunately on the eve of recession and ended up with cars it couldn't sell.

Surely though the Elise will be a sell-out success simply because there is nothing else to compete. The MGF, while a fantastic car, is much more sensible; a hot hatchback alternative for people in business suits. Only the Renault Spider comes near for exhilaration, although its extra engine power is tempered by extra weight and a cost expected to be £5,000 more.

The Elise is the car that could put Lotus back on track after its years in the wilderness. It has produced a car that Colin Chapman would have been proud of and enthusiasts will adore. They don't come along too often in the modern era, but the Elise is already a classic. Lotus has the car, all it now needs is a White Knight to take the business off Mr Artioli's hands to provide the financial security the company desperately needs.



An engine, four wheels, a spaceframe, excellent handling and speed — and little else

### LOTUS ELISE

Name: christened after granddaughter of Romano Artioli, chairman of Group Lotus-Bugatti combine.  
For sale: now in UK, Europe in September.  
Size: toytown meets the racetrack. Weighs 670kg (Mini 679kg); length 3,726mm (Mini 3,049mm), width 1,701mm (1,391mm).  
Engine: mid-mounted Rover four-cylinder, 1.8-litre for 118bhp at 5,500rpm through five-speed manual gearbox driving rear wheels.  
Brakes and tyres: hard-wearing aluminium

matrix disc brakes; unique to Elise — Pirelli P Zero, 15-inch front, 16-inch rear.  
Performance: 0 to 62mph in 5.9 seconds, top speed 124mph, av. fuel economy 39.4mpg.  
Equipment: cloth hood, passenger footrest, locking wheelnuts... er, that's it.  
Price: £19,950  
Extras: radio fitting kit £150, leather seats £385, metallic paint £690, immobiliser £295.  
Warranty: eight years on chassis, one year mileage and AA breakdown insurance.

### MCLAREN CLUB

## Win yourself a £190 chance to meet the grand prix team

■ FOR THE second grand prix running, McLaren cars have been in the points, signalling a return to form for one of the world's best Formula One teams. Millions watched Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard on television at last week's British Grand Prix, but many fans get closer to the cars and drivers. The Team McLaren members' club gives exciting opportunities for fans to see their heroes and their amazing machines close up.

■ YOU COULD be among them, for Marlboro McLaren Mercedes is offering a year's free membership to the Team McLaren Club, which is normally £45-a-head or £69 for family membership. Members receive a starter pack, including the Team McLaren polo shirt, membership card, poster of this year's car, car sticker, badge, monthly issues of *Racing Line* magazine and a brochure offering clothing and other items. Members can also take part in McLaren events and have the chance to win trips to the European grands prix and McLaren's headquarters in Woking.

BUT A Car 96 reader can short-circuit the process by winning this valuable membership. There are also three runners-up prizes of McLaren VIP sweatshirts. There is an additional sensational prize for fans who want to join the McLaren Team whether they win or not: the first five people to call the membership hotline on 01274-771653 (lines open 9am - 9pm today) will receive a cap signed by David Coulthard and Mika Hakkinen.

■ ANSWER these questions for our Car 96 competition and send on a postcard to Admail 622, Woking, Surrey GU21 1WH. Usual rules apply, closing date July 29.

1. What are the colours of David Coulthard's helmet, and what do they signify?
2. McLaren is one of the most successful teams in Formula One, with how many grands prix victories?
3. What is the number of Mika Hakkinen's car?

## Girls just want to have facts

Airhead adverts with scantily clad females driving feisty lifestyle runabouts just turn women buyers off, reports Morag Preston



Only a quarter of the women who remembered Fiat's highly feminist campaign knew it was for the Punto

Television images of scantily clad females, with perfectly applied lipstick and all the charm of an airbag, tearing through the desert in a feisty red car, are objectionable, or, at best, unmemorable, according to a report published this week.

Three out of five women feel patronised by car advertisements on television, and almost three-quarters feel stereotyped, says the report from Cowi, the motor retailers.

Rather than so-called sexy storylines that reverse the idea of motoring as a male function, women want more information.

Women drivers want to know how much a car costs and how safe it is, not whether the colour of the dashboard clashes with their nail varnish. Less than half of those women interviewed said that television advertising had any influence on their choice of car. They cited talking to car dealers or taking recommendations from friends as far more profitable leads.

Coming in the crucial run-up to the August new-registration rush, when a quarter of all new cars are sold, half of them to women, this should be food for thought for an industry that spends £500 million a year on advertising, around £200 million of it on television.

Peugeot's "Nice car — want to show me what it can do?" was the advertisement most remembered, among those women questioned, but only half could actually link it to the 306 model. Significantly, the advertisement that was first launched through Euro RSCG in October 1994, featuring a man and a woman in an underground car park, was also the one most disliked by women. Although the *femme fatale* eventually turns out to be his wife and the mother of his twins, the suggestive shots of her undressing on the beach and rubbing her head against his car seat, female viewers found insulting.

Margaret Britten, a fleet co-ordinator for the construction suppliers ARC, describes the Peugeot 306 advertisement as "a real turn-off". The 27-year-old owner of a



Peugeot's Thelma and Louise-style advert reflects its "fun" ethos

Vauxhall Cavalier, she says: "It tells too much of a story, and says nothing about the car. The advert sticks in my mind, but the make of the car doesn't." She switches off at the "girlie girlie ads" because she finds them so patronising, and the cars that they feature are always "so small".

Instead, Margaret prefers the information-packed advertisement made by Delaney Fletcher Bowzel for the American Chrysler Neon: "It's boring, but it lets me know that I can get everything I want for an all-in price."

But according to Andrew Didlick, Peugeot's advertising manager, who commands a £40 million annual budget that is split equally between press and television advertising: "It's all about buying into the emotional idea. An advert that just says this car has four doors, a steering wheel, and a gearbox, is boring. Chrysler is still at the stage where it has to re-establish its name in this country." Didlick adds that women want advertisements that promise "independence, fun, and adventure", just like the Peugeot 106 commercial with its *Thelma and Louise*-style storyline.

Ford, which tops the advertising spending league among motor man-

ufacturers with a £70 million annual budget, the majority of which goes towards television, has adopted a similar female stereotype of the go-getter mould to promote the Fiesta. The female driver, who takes to the wheel proves that her Fiesta is "not for the small minded". Although

twice as many women drive a Ford as any other car, the campaign was recognised by only 45 per cent of women; less than half of whom linked it to the Fiesta.

David Miller, European client services director at Ogilvy & Mather, Ford's advertising agency, which came up with the campaign catchline "your 16-valve hairdryer" after recruiting women's magazine *Marie Claire* to advise on creative work, predicts a change in the way that smaller cars are advertised. "This is a very sensitive market, and women don't like being singled out," he says, adding that women tend to feel more easily patronised than men. "Females dominate adverts for small cars, but we shouldn't be so systematic."

Until that change comes about, Glenna Tunski, a 44-year-old fleet co-ordinator at Imperial Tobacco, complains that "car adverts are all the same. They've gone too far."

When Glenna changed her car from a Mazda to a Corsa, she says that it was the cost of insurance and the promise of greater security that swayed her decision. "I think women are more sensible than men and will look into buying a car more deeply."

Slightly less memorable than the Peugeot 306 commercial, but with a higher brand awareness, was Renault's soap opera set in Paris, which revolves around the sylvan-like Nicole and her indulgent Papa.

More than three quarters of those questioned were able to link it to the Clio. According to Glenna: "It's not as sexist or as patronising. Nicole's father drives the same car, and we have watched her grow up from a little girl into an executive female."

Another advertisement that fares better than most is comedian and anti-sex-symbol Ruby Wax's promotion of the Vauxhall Corsa — "the little car with the big personality". Ninety per cent of women surveyed recognised the tongue-in-cheek commercial that features the brash American marshalling men on one of her many shopping trips. Furthermore, 70 per cent of those could name the car in question.

A spokesman at Vauxhall, which spends £52 million per year on advertising through Lowe Howard-Spink, boasts: "We don't target gender, we target buyers. We play on humour." Remember, then, that Lowe Howard-Spink was the agency responsible for the Vauxhall Corsa advertisements starring supermodels Naomi Campbell and Linda Evangelista that were later dropped after being criticised as being sexist.



Women liked Vauxhall's Corsa commercial with Ruby Wax for its tongue-in-cheek style



How would you like to be operated on by someone with no qualifications?

That's how your Mercedes feels, too.

Being tinkered with by an amateur is not a pleasant thought. Whether you're a human or a car. And only an appointed Mercedes-Benz dealer has the staff with the training, the specialist equipment and the finest technology to maintain the reliability, performance and safety that make you choose a Mercedes in the first place. That's why we say that no-one looks after your Mercedes-Benz like a Mercedes-Benz dealer.



Mercedes-Benz







# Our quest for lost names has unearthed rare gems, writes Tony Dawe

## Found: cars sent from Coventry

Emms, Iden, Marsell and Stoneleigh are car names which hardly trip off the tongue. Yet they were among the 132 carmakers in Coventry identified by historians researching the hundred years of the industry — and examples of them are being sought by organisers of the centenary celebrations.

Their search has been hampered, however, by the over-optimism of those inventors, engineers and entrepreneurs who in the early part of the century set up carmaking companies more out of hope than expectation.

Some got no further than making bicycles or assembling a few car parts, others only made components and one or two just sold cars.

Four months ago, the organisers enlisted the support of *Car 96* and, with the help of readers, have found some of the missing cars and solved many of the mysteries.

Today we launch a final appeal for examples of the cars which we now know were made in Coventry but have been unable to find. "We are hoping for examples of as many of the makes and models of Coventry cars as possible to take part in a cavalcade of famous and historic vehicles in the city on August 30," says John Horton, one of the organisers.

We now know that Edward Emms did produce 9.8hp light cars — but only a handful — before going bust; that George Iden was reported driving one of his specials on a hillclimb and that the colourful Count Marendaz was the inspiration behind Marsell.

We have found a couple of Stoneleighs, and learnt that models of the Duryea and Velox were definitely made and not just advertised. But where are the rest of the cars? Many of the details have come from friends and relatives of the early pioneers.



A 1900 Duryea has now been spotted — but it was a model built in America

Richard Adams wrote from Stowupland, Suffolk, with information he had gathered from his great-aunt, the widow of Edward Emms, who set up the Emms Motor Company in Walsgrave Road, Coventry, in 1922.

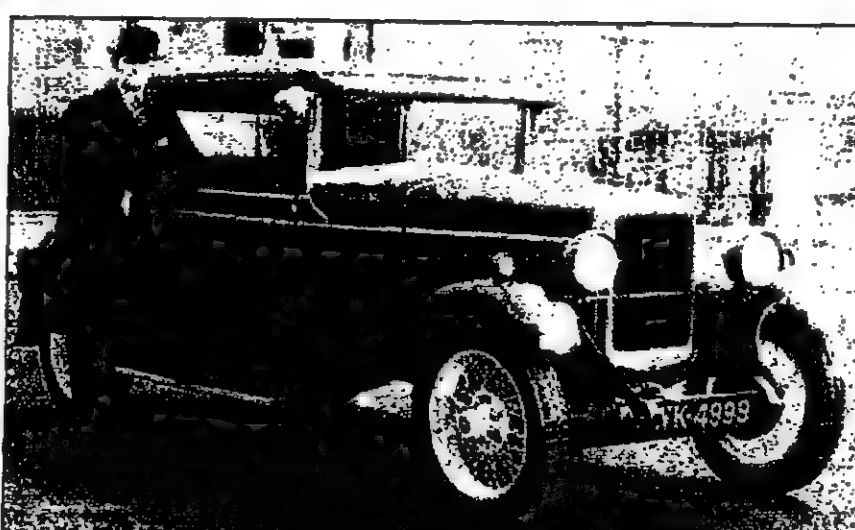
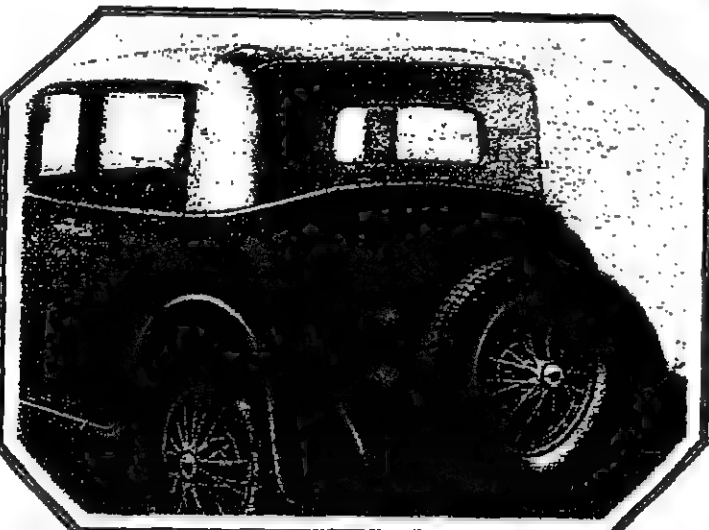
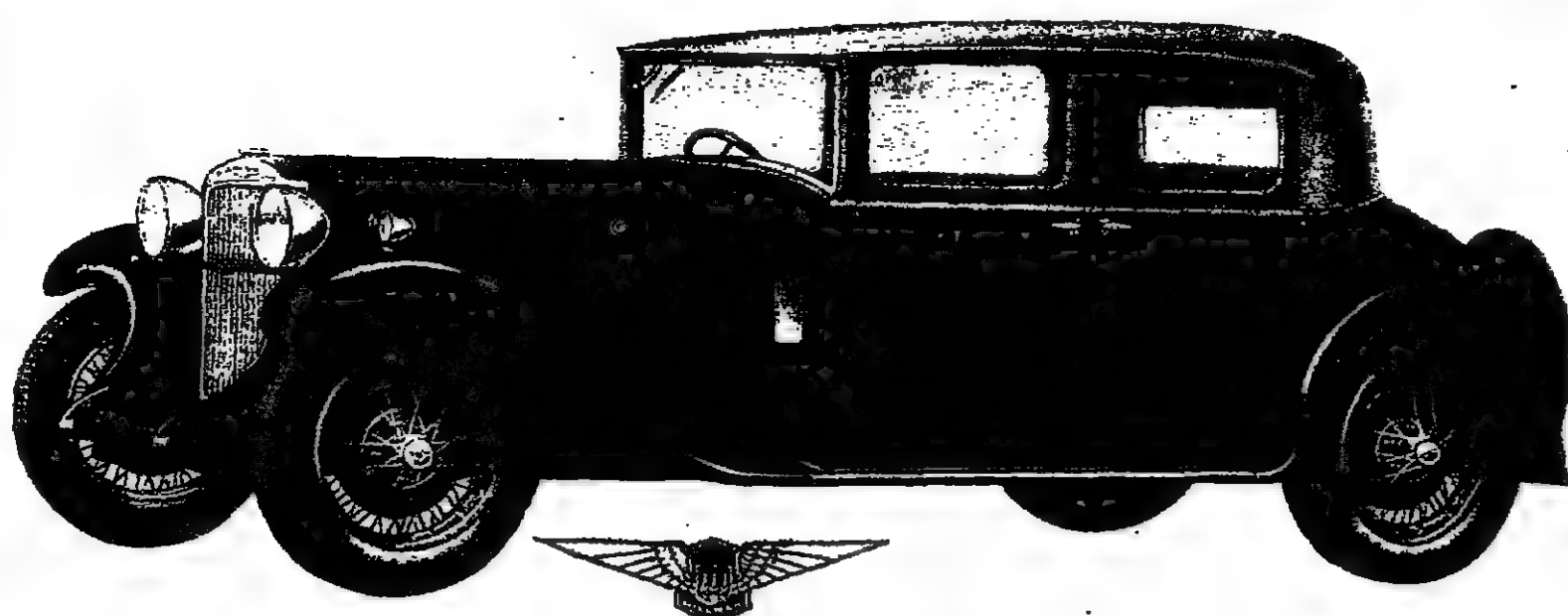
He designed a light car with a four-cylinder water-cooled engine and advertised it as "Built up to a Standard not down to a price". This philosophy failed in such a competitive marketplace and the company closed after a year. "Only a few cars were ever made and my great-aunt cannot remember who bought them," Adams wrote.

"After his company finished, Edward joined Morris Motors in the experimental department. He went on to design for other companies including Coventry Climax and Gulsom Engineering as he did not wish to risk his own capital further. Some of his tools live on, however, as I have inherited them and use them on my own motoring heritage, a Triumph 1500 Spitfire and Daimler 1300."

Malcolm Dale, from Eastleigh, Hants, referred us to some classic books on motoring history which refer to George Iden. He was a former works manager of the Motor Manufacturing Company, which originally shared a factory with Daimler at the end of the 19th century, and set up his own Iden Motor Car company in 1902, producing 12, 18 and 25hp models until 1907 when the company folded.

Sheila Lewis wrote from Coventry to tell us about Count Marendaz, "an extrovert with a burning passion for cars and a great engineer". He formed Marsell Motors in 1919 to produce light cars for racing as well as for ordinary roads.

Ms Lewis recalls: "My father was an orphan and in his early teens came to live with his uncle and aunt in Coventry. Count Marendaz took pity on him and made him his errand boy."



While we have yet to locate a Hillman Straight 8 Segrave, a reader from Battle remembers one being owned by a Lancashire dentist in the 1930s

### REAL, MISSING OR NEVER MADE?

MODELS from 52 of Coventry's reputed 132 makers have been found.

#### FOUND

Alvis, 1920-27.  
Andy House, 1983-8.  
Arden, 1912-16.  
Armstrong Siddeley, 1919-20.  
Autofa, 1937-38.  
Bavilys, 1926-30.  
Beeston, 1898.  
BSA, 1910-31.  
Buckingham (Chote), 1913-23.  
Calcutt, 1913-26.  
Carbodies, 1949-51.  
Carlton, 1901-02.  
Centaur, 1900-01.  
Cluley, 1922-28.  
Coventry Motette, 1896-1900.  
Coventry-Premier, 1919-23.  
Coventry-Victor, 1928-37.  
Crown, 1912-22.  
Daimler, 1897-7.  
Duryea, 1902-06.  
Deasy, 1906-11.  
Endurance, 1899-1901.  
Ferguson, 1920-21.  
Godiva, 1900-01.  
Hillman, 1907-18.  
Hotchkiss, 1920.  
Humber, 1898-1988.  
Jaguar, 1945-4.  
Lanchester, 1900-56.  
Lea-Francis, 1904-54.  
Maudsley, 1902-23.  
MMC, 1898-1904.  
Morris, 1913-82.  
Payne & Bates, 1900-01.  
Premier, 1912-14.  
Progress, 1898-1903.  
Rex, 1901-14.  
Riley, 1904-38.  
Hill, 1904-4.  
Siddeley-Deasy, 1912-19.  
Singer, 1902-56.  
Standard, 1903-63.

Stonebow, 1901.  
Stoneleigh, 1912-24.  
Sturmer, 1909-12.  
Swallow, 1922-45.  
Swift, 1900-31.  
Talbot, 1919-21.  
Triumph, 1923-4.  
Velox, 1902-04.  
Warwick, 1928-30.

#### NEVER MADE

Acme, 1919.  
Aircraft, 1926-30.  
Alpha, 1922-25.  
Aurora, 1903-04.  
Aston, 1928-30.  
BBA, 1937-39.  
Barnold, 1928-30.  
Billings, 1900.  
Clement, 1908-14.  
Climax, 1905-07.  
Cooper, 1919-23.  
Coronet, 1904-06.  
Dawson, 1920.  
Emms, 1922-23.  
Forman, 1904-06.  
Garard & Bloomfield, 1894-96.  
Glover, 1912-13.  
Hubbard, 1904-05.  
Iden, 1904-07.  
Lady, 1899.  
Lofis, 1906-12.  
Marsell, 1919-25.  
New Beeston, 1898.  
Omega, 1925-27.  
Regan, 1899.  
Ranger, 1913-14.  
Ridley, 1901-07.  
Rudge, 1912-13.  
Ryder, 1920-30.  
Taylor-Sweetman, 1913.  
Titan, 1911.  
West-Aster, 1904-14.  
Wigan-Barlow, 1922-23.  
Williamson, 1913-14.

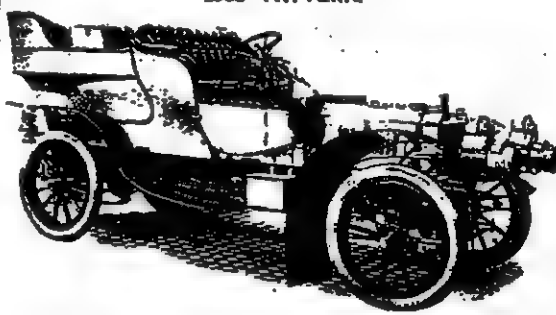
#### MISSING

Academy, 1906-08.  
Ailard, 1899-1902.  
Ariel, 1922-25.  
Armo, 1908.  
Auto-Forge, 1987.  
Broadway, 1913.  
Brooks, 1902.  
Clarendon, 1902-03.  
Clement, 1908-14.  
Climax, 1905-07.  
Cooper, 1919-23.  
Coronet, 1904-06.  
Dawson, 1920.  
Emms, 1922-23.  
Forman, 1904-06.  
Garard & Bloomfield, 1894-96.  
Glover, 1912-13.  
Hubbard, 1904-05.  
Iden, 1904-07.  
Lady, 1899.  
Lofis, 1906-12.  
Marsell, 1919-25.  
New Beeston, 1898.  
Omega, 1925-27.  
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Ranger, 1913-14.  
Ridley, 1901-07.  
Rudge, 1912-13.  
Ryder, 1920-30.  
Taylor-Sweetman, 1913.  
Titan, 1911.  
West-Aster, 1904-14.  
Wigan-Barlow, 1922-23.  
Williamson, 1913-14.

Compiled with help from the British Museum of Road Transport, and Nick Georgano

### ON THE WANTED LIST

#### THE VELOX PETROL CAR.



#### 9.8hp. EMMS Light Car



THE TWO stylish cars shown above are among those sought by Motor City's organisers to enhance the Coventry collection cavalcade which will form part of the city's celebrations of the motor industry's centenary. THE VELOX company was one of many which took a lease at the city's Parkside works and began car production in 1902. The 1903 petrol car was one of several different models designed with 10 and 20hp engines, but only 21 cars were built before the company was wound up in 1904. THE EMMS deluxe Coupé was made in 1922 by a short-lived company formed by Edward Emms, a talented designer. It came complete with a range of extras, such as a speedometer and clock, at a cost of £350.

### BROKEN DREAMS

## Fantasy life of old Ryley and similar dreams

A machine for "two of the sociable type", it runs with "great freedom and little vibration: the high speed is quite as fast as desirable and all ordinary hills can be taken without changing gear".

The test published in *Autocar* in September 1901 made the Ryley Voiturette sound like the ideal motor for a young couple and would have done Morgan proud, but like so many cars designed in Coventry at the turn of the century, it was just a dream.

Only two prototypes were produced and the company formed to put it into full production collapsed within a year. The search for a Ryley (with two 'y's instead of the familiar one) as part of the hunt for surviving models of Coventry-made marques came to an end with a letter from John Ryley, grandson of the pioneer.

"I can be positively negative about one of the Coventry cars no Ryley Voiturette can exist now," he wrote from Lymington, Hampshire. "At the beginning of 1902, Ryley Ward and Bradford, the company formed to make the car, was bust. John Albert Ryley, my grandfather, was not short of original ideas and one of them was to sell his car in its form. This project had begun and a collection of essential special parts were made. These parts were not saleable at liquidation so he went on keeping them in the attic of his Birmingham warehouse for sentimental reasons. It is likely that the Voiturette was among the bits because these cars were very flimsy and did not need anything as large as a stable or barn to store. I think my father disposed of the 'junk' in 1923."

Another sad letter came from Mark Bean of Olveston, Gloucestershire,

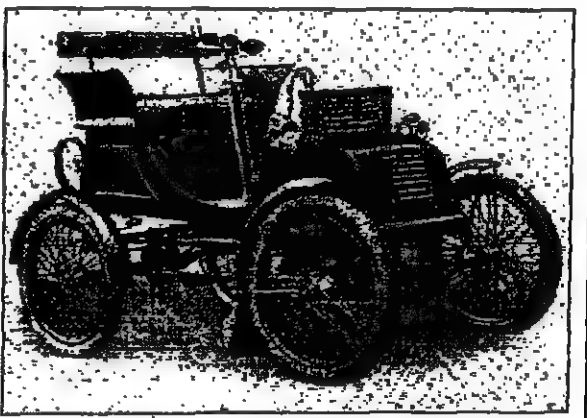
whose wife's grandfather, Edmund Mayo, founded the Coventry Eagle company. It, too, was identified by historians as "a firm with some aspirations to car manufacture" but according to Bean it never got beyond making bicycles.

The Bramco company also puzzled the historians. They discovered its car advertisements but noted that its address was in a respectable residential area without any industrial premises. This mystery was solved by Eugene Nicholson, a museum curator of Bradford, who uncovered a series of sales documents showing that American and Coventry-made cars had been distributed by Bramco, providing that the company was a car retailer not a manufacturer.

Other names have also been removed from the list of potential carmakers after research by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, owner of the National Motor Museum, and Nick Georgano, author of the *Complete Encyclopedia of Motorcars*.

They discovered, for example, that Hobart-Bird diversified from making motorcycles into producing three-wheeled commercial vehicles but never cars. Lee-Stroyer, set up by Pelham Lee, a former Daimler engineer and a Danish partner, did produce a car to demonstrate the efficiency of the company's petrol engine but did not pursue the venture.

Between them, Lord Montagu and Georgano have cast doubts on whether 45 companies listed as potential carmakers ever produced one. "We do not like to be killjoys," Lord Montagu says, "but it must help the organisers to know which models they have a realistic chance of finding."



The Ryley builder's grandson revealed its sad fate

### PARADE OF THE RESURRECTED

THE CAVALCADE of Coventry-built cars will be just one of the spectacular events taking place in three days of celebrations, from August 30 to September 1, to mark the centenary of the British motor industry, writes Tony Dawe.

The parade, entitled the Coventry Collection, will pass some of the factories old and new which have made cars from the Progress Quadricycle to the eagerly awaited Jaguar XK8.

"We have invited all the groups and individual owners of Coventry-built cars to come to the city on August 30 to join the cavalcade," says John Horton, consultant to the city council.

When they are not on the move, the cars will be parked amid marquees and a funfair at Coombe Abbey just outside the city. They will be joined there on Saturday, August 31, by more historic cars from other parts of the United Kingdom which will form the "British collection". A faster-paced event on Saturday will be the Motor City Challenge, a rally around 80 miles of road and track, including the Motor Industry Research Association's test site near Hinckley.



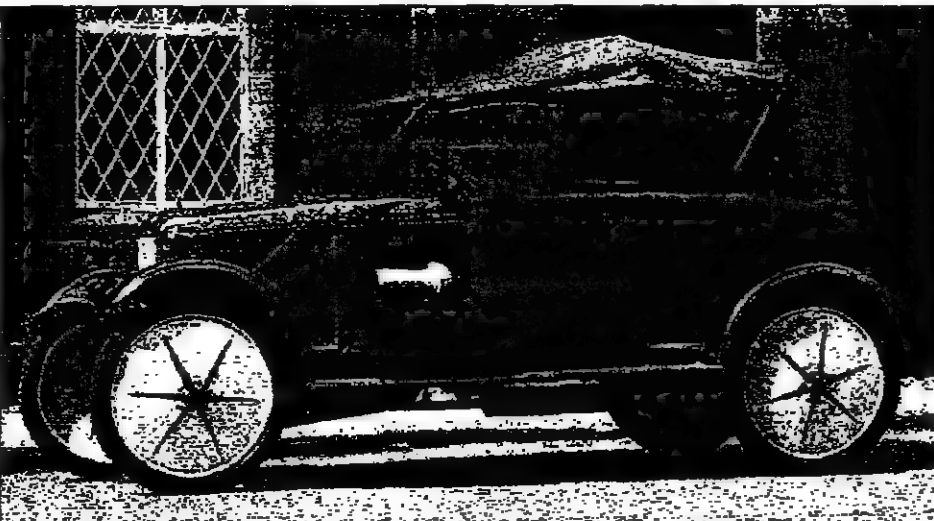
The rally has been designed to test both the driving and navigational skills of ordinary motorists and is open to anyone — provided they contribute at least £40 to the Motor Industry Benevolent Fund. Organisers have set a target of 250 cars and there will be special categories for all-terrain vehicles, new drivers, old drivers and classic cars with commemorative prizes in each group. (More details about the rally will appear in *Car 96* next week.) Sunday will feature the Midlands' rival to the annual London to Brighton veter-

an car run: a 65-mile rally through Shakespeare country for 450 historic vehicles, from late-19th-century cars to more modern Triumph and Jaguar sports cars.

The entrants will assemble at Coombe Abbey park before parading through the city centre and heading on a route through Kenilworth, Henley-in-Arden, Stratford-upon-Avon, and Warwick.

The four events will be supported by a lively entertainment programme in the city centre including the opportunity for motor racing enthusiasts of all ages to try the EuroSport remote-controlled grand prix circuit with 1/12th sized Formula One cars, to play on SEGA rally machines and a Scalextric replica of the Silverstone circuit.

Russ Swift, the stuntman made famous by his television commercials will be performing in a car park, while the Odeon cinema will be running a car-themed film festival with such classics as *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *Bullitt*.



Our appeal has uncovered a pair of Stoneleighs; one is being restored by Rolls-Royce

my uncle who lived in the area and recalled that Mr Grundy would 'drive a party to Blackpool for the evening in the Straight 8 Hillman'.

"Mr Grundy was in the news after his death in the 1960s when it was disclosed that he had left everything to his secretary. I wonder if she got the car and whether it's still in existence."

More definite news has been gathered about the Stoneleigh cars, made from 1912 to 1924 at the Parkside works, Coventry, which became home to Armstrong Siddeley. One is being restored at the Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust at Mickleover, Derbyshire, and another has been listed in an auction catalogue.

Thanks to David Locket of Wokingham, Surrey, we are also on the trail of a Velox. He used to own the chassis of one many years ago and has spotted the same car listed in the handbook of the Veteran Car Club of Great Britain.

A Duryea has been spotted in another catalogue and one is known to exist in Britain, but it is dated 1900 and comes from America where Charles Duryea was a pioneering manufacturer at the end of the 19th century.















# The banks where wild times grew

Silverstone? Brooklands is racing's first home, says Lord Montagu of Beaulieu

Little remains of Brooklands: a few fragments of banking are visible from the Waterloo to Southampton railway, but the area is increasingly given over to industry. Few realise that this uninspiring spot was for 32 years the motor racing enthusiasts' mecca.

In the early years of the century racing on main roads was strictly forbidden. When a British victory in the 1902 Gordon Bennett Race obliged us to host the next year's event, it had to be held in Ireland. The idea for Brooklands occurred to the wealthy landowner and motor racing enthusiast, Hugh Fortescue Locke King, while he was watching Italy's premier event, the Targa Florio in Sicily in 1906. Italian cars and drivers finished first and second, and a Frenchman third. Why were there no British cars in the race at all, he wondered? If the Continent had open roads for racing, he determined that Britain should have a purpose-built track.

For the site, Locke King chose part of his Surrey estate, south of his home at Weybridge. It was unpromising marshy land with a few smallholdings devoted to poultry.

Brooklands (named after Locke King's house) was a most ambitious project. The concrete track was 100 feet wide, roughly oval and 2.75 miles in circumference. At the north end there was a steep banking which rose nearly 29 feet above ground level. This came to be known as the Members' Banking, while at the other end was the lower Byfleet Banking. Even this, at 21 feet 10in, loomed over the roofs of a row of cottages beneath it. The

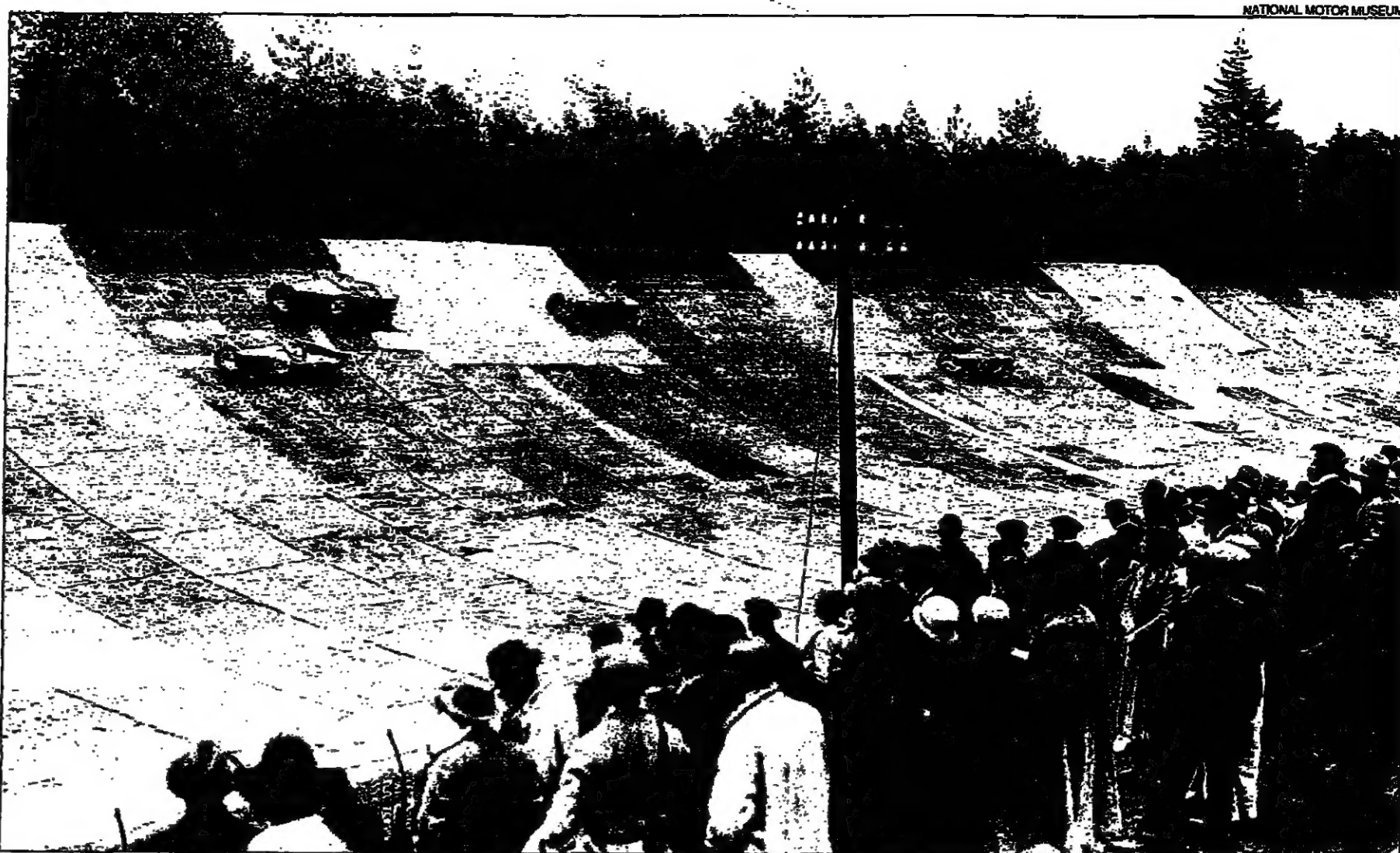
200ft-long Hennebique Bridge over the River Wey was reputedly Britain's first use of reinforced concrete.

The circuit was designed by Colonel Holden of the Royal Engineers. He planned the angle of the banking so that even at the top a stationary car would not topple over. At any speed from 30 to 100mph there was a natural line at which no steering would be required. Holden estimated that the track would be safe at up to 120mph, but the final lap record, set in 1935 by John Cobb, was 143.44mph. (Jacques Villeneuve's fastest lap at Silverstone last weekend was 127mph.)

## 'Numbers on the cars were thought vulgar'

The Brooklands Automobile Racing Club was formed in December 1906. Lord Londale was president and his father, vice-president; committee members included Prince Francis of Teck (brother of the Princess of Wales, who became Queen Mary in 1910), the Dukes of Beaufort and Westminster, and Lords Churchill, Dudley, Essex, Northcliffe, Sefton and Tollermeade. Considered an extension of horse racing, motor racing attracted a blue-blooded governing body.

The official opening was on June 17, 1907, when speeches were made at a luncheon in the pavilion and cars paraded on the track. Some drivers could not resist the temptation of taking their cars to the limit. The fastest was Warwick Wright's 60hp Napier which roared around near the top of the banking, reaching speeds estimated by *The Autocar* at between 80 and 90mph. The motoring press enthused about the new track, but not everyone was impressed, however.



The banking was built to enable drivers to corner at 100mph without moving the steering. The circuit was thought safe up to 120mph but this was greatly exceeded

The diarist Lady Mary Monkswell wrote in July, "Mr and Mrs Locke King came to dinner. They have been building this awful motor track and are so hated by their neighbours... that hardly anyone will speak to them." When she visited it, she reported: "The motor track is a perfect nightmare. A more enjoyable place to come on a hot Sunday afternoon I cannot imagine." She did concede, however: "The enormous size of the arena, almost like a great Roman work, and the controlled strength of the motors, prevents this great horror place from being vulgar."

Even before racing began, the track saw the first British 24-hour record attempt. S. F. Edge drove a 60hp Napier accompanied by two similar cars on June 28-29. Finding his headlights next to useless he sent out for 352 red lanterns from every roadmaking firm in London.



The ambitious track included the 200ft-long Hennebique bridge

These were placed around the track every ten yards. At the end of the 24 hours he had covered 1,881 miles at an average speed of 65.95 mph: a world record that remained unbeaten for 18 years.

The first race meeting on July 6 was a bit of an anticlimax. The cars seemed dwarfed by the expanse of concrete, and although speeds of 90mph were reached, from a distance they seemed very slow. Identification was difficult as in horse-racing tradition the drivers

wore jockey's smocks. Numbers were considered vulgar.

Complaints of inadequate catering and delays in getting in and out of the track did not add to the day's success, though the crowd of more than 13,000, each paying half a crown, was encouraging. There were six races, and prize money was very high. The main event carried a prize of £1,400, equivalent to at least £30,000 today.

Three more meetings were held in 1907; at the insistence of the starter A. V. Ebbelwhite, who remained in his post until the track closed in August 1939, the coloured smocks were replaced by numbers on the cars, and handicapping was introduced. Within a few years Brooklands was established as the most important motor racing venue in Britain, and also attracted many visitors from Europe and America. Brooklands reached its peak of

popularity in the late 1920s, after which it began to be eclipsed by the growing number of road circuits in Europe. By 1939 the surface of the old track was becoming increasingly bumpy. It had been a centre of flying almost from the outset, and during World War II a total of 2,515 Wellington bombers were built at the Vickers factory. Part of the banking was demolished to allow the Wellingtons out, and the track was sold to Vickers in 1946.

Among those who agreed to the sale was Sir Malcolm Campbell who had competed so often there. Happily the track is still used for reunions; although no racing can take place, it has been greatly cleaned up in recent years, thanks to the work of the Brooklands Society. Thirty acres of original buildings form the Brooklands Museum, which was opened by Prince Michael of Kent in 1991.

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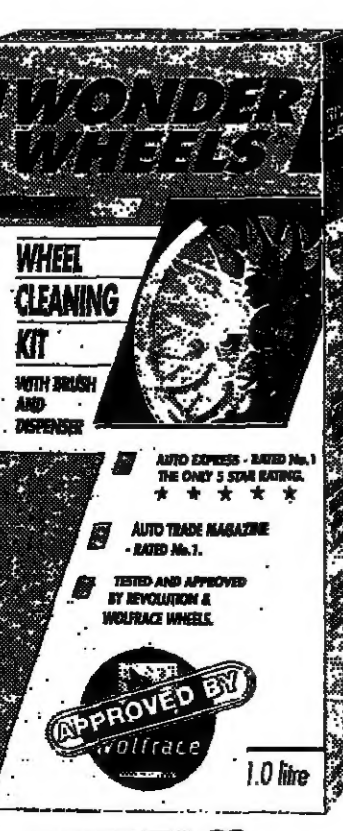
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## Volkswagen at Dovercourt.



Greg Knight's political power finds its match in his classic-crowded garage, says Perry Cleveland-Peck

# Chief Whip who doesn't spare the horses

If a man's car reflects his style and character then Greg Knight, Government Deputy Chief Whip, has the perfect set of wheels. He describes his favourite classic car, a 1949 Buick Roadmaster, as "just a little bit frightening".

Knight, one of the most powerful and feared men in the Conservative party, explains: "With its huge carnivorous grille it is a beast that generates a sinister, slightly menacing presence. In fact on the few occasions it is seen in public, little boys have been known to run off at their first sight of it."

I bet they have, for with an uncompromising and not insubstantial body and a powerful 5.2-litre straight-eight engine, the machine, along with its driver, is enough to put the fear of God into any would-be motorist as they travel the highways and byways of Westminster. With its distinctive four-hole ventilation ports and "a hell of a lot of chrome", the Buick, all 18 feet of it, is a striking vehicle that would intimidate the traffic on any boulevard or thoroughfare.

"When I first bought the car," says Knight, "I thought it was just me who found it frightening but since then I have learnt that others feel the same way too. Considering current events at Westminster maybe I should drive it to the House a little more often. Perhaps all the whips should get one each."

There are two passions in Knight's life: politics and classic cars. He developed both when he was a young boy. "I have had an interest in cars since I was seven," he says. "The first car I owned was a 1957 Studebaker Hawk, which I got in 1958. I was nine years old and the car was four inches long — it was a Dinky toy. I now own the real thing."

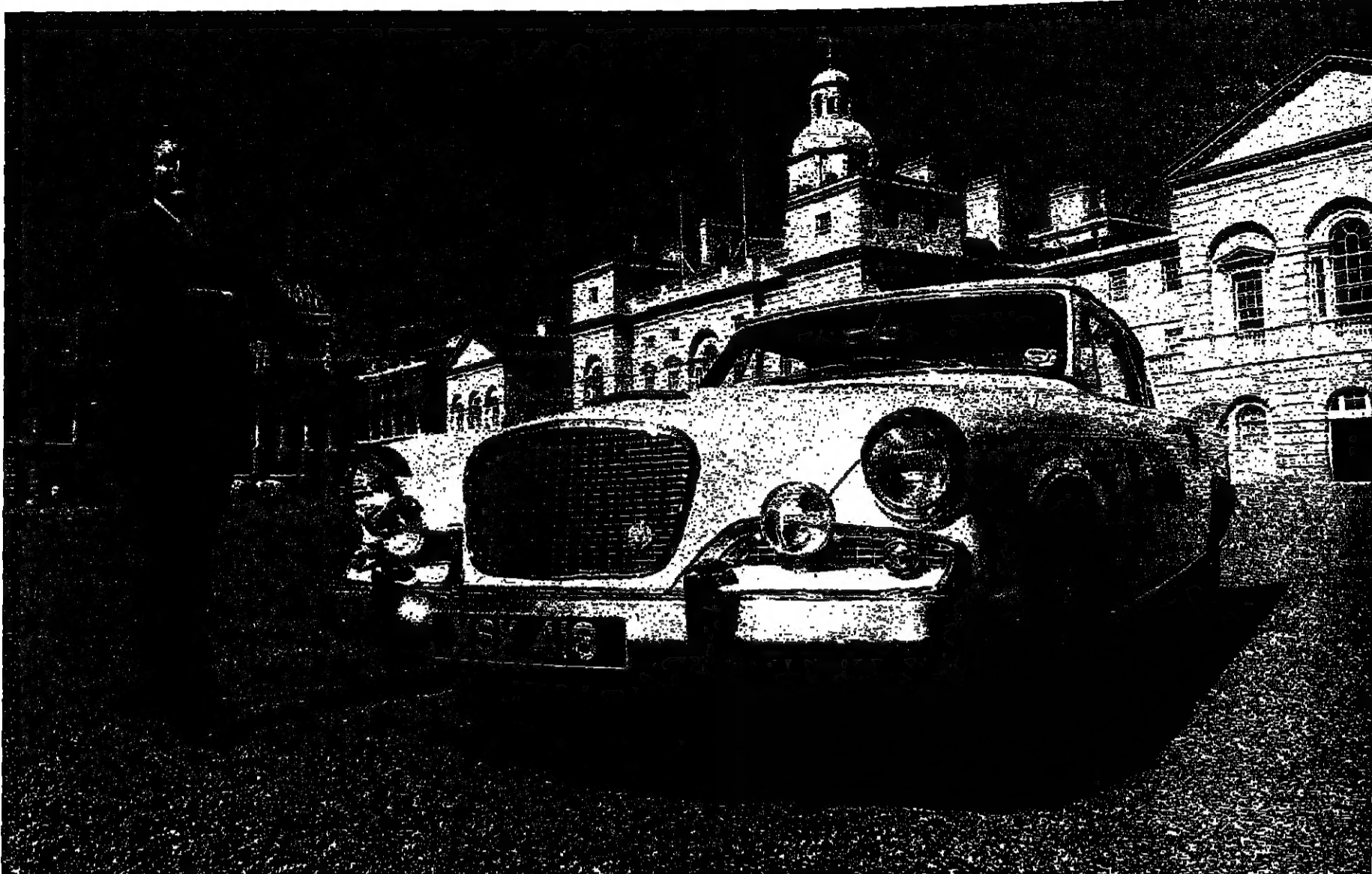
The 1961 Studebaker Hawk and the Buick are just two out of a

collection of many. Knight, who maintains that "you can't beat litres", owns, in chronological order: a 1956 Bentley SL, a 3½-litre 1969 Rover P5B coupé (the smallest-engined car in his collection), a 1972 6.3-litre Jensen Interceptor (which delivers an economical 12.5 mpg), a 1988 Chrysler Le Baron Convertible, a 1991 Chevrolet Caprice saloon (complete with tinted windows) and a new Chevrolet Camaro sports. He has recently just moved house in Derbyshire to a property that has a workshop big enough to house them all.

The motoring love affair started 15 years ago when Knight part-exchanged a Ford Granada for the Bentley SL. He maintains: "The Bentley is a wonderful car, she is very reliable and sometimes I can go six months without even starting her — she still fires at the first turn of the key." The Bentley was once used to chauffeur his friend, the singer Frankie Valli, to a Four Seasons concert in Brentwood during the band's 1994 UK tour. Knight, known among journalists as "Silent Knight" in recognition of his renowned eagerness to communicate with the press, is no stranger to the rock and roll business. A one-time owner of a recording studio and former drummer, he recorded the track *Maggie Will Always Be Around* for the 1983 general election campaign.

"I just cannot sell my cars," he says, "though these days I am getting more selective at choosing new ones. What I will say about my collection is that they are all roadworthy and in regular use. They aren't just museum pieces or an investment, though they have all increased in value. One thing I can't stand is seeing people turn up to a rally in a Land Rover with their cars on a trailer behind them — after all they are not pieces of furniture."

Knight's dream car is a 1937 Cord 812 Beverly Sedan — the super-charged model. "Depending on your viewpoint it is either the most attractive or unattractive car ever built," he says. "I just love the Art Deco look about it. It has very distinctive wraparound grille bars encompassing the fore-end of the car from front door to front door — the so-called coffin-nose effect. It was the first motor car to be able to



Knight with his 1961 Studebaker Hawk: he first had one at the age of nine, but it was a Dinky toy. He bought the full-sized car after seeing it featured in a magazine

go over 100 mph, the first car with pop-up headlights and the first car with front-wheel drive. It was made in the States during the 1930s but with the arrival of Depression the company folded and now Cords are very rare motor cars indeed."

Knight is so enthusiastic about this car that he is reported to have said that if he ever became Secretary of State for Transport the first thing he would do is buy a Cord and drive it to the office.

On more than one occasion Knight's passion for automobiles has come into conflict with his political career. Having been reported to Westminster's Sergeant at Arms for keeping more than one car (one of them untaxed) parked at the Palace of Westminster car park, Knight's recent involvement with the phantasmal and possibly non-existent House of Commons Classic Car Club found him in further hot water. Letters singling Knight's praises for "his untiring efforts" in helping to bring about the classic car tax concessions in this year's budget were faxed off to various car magazines. But Paddy Tipping, the Labour MP who looked into the matter, said he could find no record of the club's existence, commenting:

"Unlike the vehicles it is said to represent, the club's vintage and pedigree seem shrouded in mystery. I checked in the House of Commons library and it is clear to me that the group does not exist."

Tipping has reported the club to the Commons Administration Committee as bogus. Recent newspaper articles implying that Knight created the club and the press releases in order to bolster a flagging majority would, however, appear grossly cynical.

Unlike the Fifth Earl of Rosebery, whose three ambitions were "to win the Derby, marry an heiress and become Prime Minister", the MP for Derby North's plans for the future demonstrate that his dedication and loyalties lie with his car collection and the Tory leader: "If you were to ask me if I wanted to be Prime Minister I would have to say no — my ambition is to own the Cord. Besides, I think the present PM is doing a tremendous job anyway. The benefits of being a whip really come into their own with the arrival of the House recess because, as opposed to the responsibilities of

a departmental portfolio, a whip has less to do at this time," he says. "This summer I will be polishing the cars and driving them along the leafy lanes of Derbyshire: recess is only four weeks away and I can already smell the engine oil."

So, if, while wandering down such a green Derbyshire byway this summer, you are confronted by a frightening and menacing apparition — reminiscent, perhaps, of Kenneth Grahame's "Toad the terror" — take cover, for it will more than likely be the Deputy Chief Whip in his Buick Roadmaster.

## F1 Fantasy Drive update



### TOTAL POINTS AFTER THE BRITISH GP

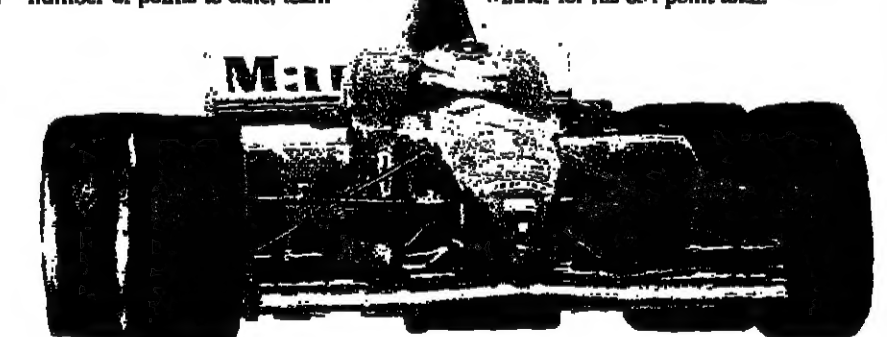
Group	Driver	Last race points	Total points
Group A	01 M Schumacher	21	611
	02 J Alesi	60	796
	03 D Hill	46	790
Group B	04 G Berger	108	887
	05 E Irvine	16	489
	06 J Villeneuve	103	857
Group C	07 D Coulthard	101	755
	08 M Hakkinen	99	845
	09 H Frenzen	92	618
Group D	10 M Brundle	94	633
	11 R Barrichello	99	695
	12 J Herbert	92	656
Group E	13 M Salo	102	583
	14 P Lamy	23	520
	15 P Diniz	42	613
Group F	16 U Katayama	21	290
	17 J Verstappen	92	412
	18 O Panis	45	650
Group G	19 G Fisichella	93	377
	20 R Rosset	14	327
	21 L Badoer	0	365
	22 A Montemini	0	167

You can change up to four of your drivers on our transfer line below (Republic of Ireland 004 499 010 0332). Only one call is permitted in the transfer period — more than one call will invalidate your transfers. Transfers must result in a team comprising one driver from each of the eight groups.

CALL 0891-405 032 UNTIL MONDAY THURSDAY JULY 23

0891 calls are charged at 39p per minute, plus VAT and 40p at all other times

Below we print the results of last week's British Grand Prix at Silverstone, plus the cumulative points in each category for the nine races in our fantasy game so far. Remember, the Australian Grand Prix does not count towards our point scoring system. Also today we print the latest positions at the top of our leaderboard in the race for the £10,000 jackpot which shows the position, number of points to date, team



### HOW YOUR DRIVERS SCORED POINTS AT SILVERSTONE

Qualifying points are scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid: D Hill 20 points; J Villeneuve 19; M Schumacher 18; M Hakkinen 17; J Alesi 16; R Barrichello 15; G Berger 14; M Brundle 13; D Coulthard 12; E Irvine 11; H Frenzen 10; U Katayama 9; J Herbert 8; M Salo 7; J Verstappen 6; O Panis 5; P Diniz 4; G Fisichella 3; P Lamy 2; R Rosset 1.

Finishing points: Finishing points are scored by the top 20 drivers at the end of every grand prix: J Villeneuve 20 points; G Berger 19; M Hakkinen 18; R Barrichello 17; D Coulthard 16; M Brundle 15; M Salo 14; H Frenzen 13; J Herbert 12; J Verstappen 11; G Fisichella 10. (No other finishers)

name, and the name of the fantasy team manager. The table shows a clear leader with 5,201 points.

Our ninth race winner for the performance of his team in the British Grand Prix is Mr E Coombs from Edinburgh, whose team, Durham Racers, scored 650 points. He wins a two-day trip for two to the Belgian Grand Prix in August. He was selected as the outright winner for his 654 point total.

### F1 FANTASY DRIVE LEADERBOARD AFTER NINE RACES

01 5,201 Cladeboys	I Laurence
02 5,196 County Pine F	J Hunt
03 5,192 GMC	S Hardcastle
04 5,192 Garry Gadgets	P Shepherd
05 5,192 Packards	A Packenham-Walsh
06 5,192 Trevor Tyres	E Nathan
07 5,192 Red Streak	R Hegarty
08 5,192 The Winning Team	C Plant
09 5,192 Pistop	B Mayes
10 5,192 Kevin's Racers	C Hounslow
11 5,192 Keeta's Wonder	K Patel
12 5,192 Bev's Bashers Cars	N Bevins
13 5,192 The Gravel Trappers	A Huckle
14 5,192 Howey's Hotshots	A Howard
15 5,192 Xenon	H Whyte
16 5,192 Racing Jaws	J Giles
17 5,191 Mick's Mix	M Bradford
18 5,186 Myles Ahead	M Myles

### CHECK YOUR SCORE

Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the hotline number below (Republic of Ireland readers should call 004 499 020 0501). Remember to have your 10-digit PIN number handy when you call. The line currently carries all positions after the British Grand Prix at Silverstone and will be updated again on Wednesday July 31 after the German Grand Prix.

CALL THE 24-HOUR CHECKLINE 0891-774 734

### FANTASY UPDATE

## Our team's losing, so we'll change it

Let's face it, the British Grand Prix was a bit of a disappointment for all of us. Even if there were a few unseasonably jokers around the track when Michael Schumacher and Eddie Irvine retired so early, it has to be said that a race without the Ferraris is a colourless affair and when Damon Hill spun into the gravel that was the end of things for a lot of fans.

Jacques Villeneuve richly deserved his victory, but if you have an F1 Fantasy Drive team headed by Jean Alesi and Eddie Irvine it looked like a disaster. So after drifting further and further off the pace in our celebrity contest, Team Car 96 has decided to play its joker. We will take advantage of the rules which allow you to switch up to four drivers in an attempt to catch up with the likes of Jonathan Palmer (now more than 1,000 points ahead of us). Louise Aitken-Walker and Nick Mason.

With only six races to go, it would have been easy to plump for the Hill/Villeneuve combination. But an emergency meeting of the team managers Kevin Eason, The Times Motoring Editor, and Alan Coppins, Editor of Car 96, in the Old Rose (Wapping's equivalent to the Maranello Trattoria) decided to remain faithful to the original concept of blind faith allied to cock-eyed optimism and true patriotism.

The latter allows us to adopt Damon Hill in Group A in place of Jean Alesi. Now Hill's under pressure it's our patriotic duty to back him. To take on Villeneuve would have made all the teams look the same, but we had to do something about Eddie Irvine because much as we love that Irish charm, Ferrari seems incapable of providing him with a finish. So welcome in, Gerhard Berger. Heinz Harald Frentzen had to go since he's trailing badly in Group C while the McLaren drivers are both improving. To go for Hakkinen would again have smacked of imitation, so with further patriotism we've adopted David Coulthard.

We stick with our choices of Martin Brundle in Group D, and Pedro Diniz in Group E, the rather unlikely star of our team. No one else dared choose the Brazilian driver but his 613 Fantasy points, plus one real championship point in the Ligier, make him a useful entry.

Jos Verstappen on the other hand has failed to live up to early promise and his Fantasy score trails, although he's also scored one real championship point. So in Group F we're going for another entry no other team dared choose Ukyo Katayama. Tyrrell's Japanese driver, partly on the grounds that after his wretched season so far, his luck just has to change soon and partly because he impressed Coppins immensely by deliberately spinning his road car through 360 degrees twice during a recent interview.

Fisichella and Montemini retain their places in the last two groups. Next week we will offer all the other celebrity teams a chance to change their line-ups. The method is explained in the adjoining panel. Scores: 1. Jonathan Palmer (Hill, Villeneuve, Hakkinen, Barrichello, Salo, Panis, Rosset, Badoer) 4,933; 2. Louise Aitken-Walker (Hill, Villeneuve, Coulthard, Herbert, Salo, Panis, Rosset, Badoer) 4,933; 3. Nick Mason (Schumacher, Villeneuve, Hakkinen, Barrichello, Salo, Panis, Rosset, Badoer) 4,933; 4. Carol Vorderman (Hill, Villeneuve, Hakkinen, Barrichello, Salo, Panis, Rosset, Badoer) 4,933; 5. Stirling Moss (Hill, Villeneuve, Hakkinen, Brundle, Salo, Panis, Rosset, Montemini) 4,852; 6. Sir David Steel (Hill, Villeneuve, Hakkinen, Barrichello, Salo, Verstappen, Rosset, Montemini) 4,676; 7. Tess Stimson (Alesi, Irvine, Coulthard, Herbert, Salo, Panis, Rosset, Badoer) 4,624; 8. Chris Rea (Alesi, Irvine, Hakkinen, Barrichello, Salo, Verstappen, Rosset, Badoer) 4,512; 9. Lord March (Alesi, Irvine, Hakkinen, Brundle, Salo, Verstappen, Fisichella, Montemini) 4,302; 10. Car 96 4,105.

### DR DASHBOARD

## Are MPs after political mileage?

I was ready to man the barricades when I heard that MPs voted themselves a 26 per cent pay rise last week, but is it true they offset it by voting to reduce their mileage allowances?

It's true, but like a lot of things in politics, only up to a point. They voted to replace a graded system which began at 23p a mile for small cars and gave them a seemingly-generous top rate of 74.1p a mile for large cars with a flat rate of 47.2p for all cars.

But surely the cost of motoring hasn't gone down. Were they just trying to save their consciences?

We doctors usually fight shy of political diagnosis, but here it seems we were faced with a classic case of what the medical profession calls "a trade-off". Guilty consciences were helped along by the whips suggesting that a vote to cut allowances would make a vote for a big pay rise more acceptable.

I can see the point. Anyway I thought MPs were supposed to set an example and drive small cars. Surely the graded rate would have encouraged them to buy Jaguars, BMWs and the like?

That was one of the arguments put forward in favour of a fixed rate, although some MPs argued that they needed large, comfortable cars because of the amount of driving they do to and from their constituencies.

That's all very well but I don't have the chance to set my own mileage allowance and I think the one I've got is lousy. Is there anything I can do about it?

Well, these things are always open to negotiation with your employer. But remember the spectre of the Inland Revenue is lurking to demand its share of tax.

But how are these allowances calculated? Surely everyone's circumstances are different?

That's right, but there are two good starting points for a negotiation. One comes from the AA in a leaflet called *Motoring Costs 1996*. It is an attempt to calculate the general costs of owning and running a car and it breaks those costs down into pence per mile. For the very reason you state, the AA emphasises that its figures are not a recommendation, although they are frequently accepted as a useful guide in negotiations. The other guideline comes from the Inland Revenue and is known as the Fixed Profit Car Scheme. It sets an allowance above which any reimbursement of mileage becomes taxable. You can get details from your tax office.

Do these calculations take into account things like depreciation and the costs of having an extended warranty?

The AA figures are calculated by combining two sets of figures: standing charges and running costs. The first includes depreciation, road tax, insurance and, of course, AA membership. The second includes fuel, tyres, servicing and so on and makes an allowance for warranty cover.

Q. That sounds reasonable, so what are the AA's conclusions?

It depends how big your car's engine is, whether it's petrol or diesel and on how many miles you do a year, but taking an annual average of 10,000 miles, the current figures to the nearest penny for petrol cars are: up to 1100cc, 25p; 1101 - 1400cc, 32p; 1401 - 2000, 39p; 2001 - 3000cc, 46p; 3001 - 4500cc, 50p. The diesel rates are calculated on the new purchase price of the car. Again for an average 10,000 miles a year the rates are: cars costing up to £10,000, 29p; £10,001 - £15,000, 36p; over £15,000, 55p. For employers who pay flat rates, the Inland Revenue sets a tax-free allowance of 38.5p for the first 4,000 miles and 21p thereafter.



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Ardent fans of the British sports car converged from across the American continent. Alan Jabez was there



It is 15 years since MG exported to America but many fine examples remain, especially of the much-loved MGB

## MG-mania takes over Indianapolis

The good folk of Indianapolis must have wondered what had hit them. Though they are well used to the sight of fast cars and passionate car enthusiasts, their streets were taken over by the arrival of more than 1,200 MGs and their owners — the largest ever gathering of MGs in America. They came from just about every state this month, with some people driving more than 2,000 miles. Others crossed the borders from Mexico and Canada, while a number of diehard enthusiasts from the UK flew across the Atlantic for the one-off occasion.

Gary Watson, president of the Houston MG Owners Club and producer of an award-winning documentary



Fans hold many local shows and have their own museum

film on the history of MGs, was typically enthusiastic. "I have had this event listed in my diary since last year and have been counting down the days." He drove his 1977

Midget 1,200 miles to attend the event, and his only lament was that it lasted only for four days.

But Watson is just one of hundreds of Americans for whom their MG is almost a way of life. Another is John Twist, the owner of a restoration shop in Ada, Michigan. He has organised an MG party every year for the past 20 years and usually more than 400 enthusiasts show up. Meanwhile, in Walpole, New Hampshire, Gerry Goguen, a former trumpet player with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, has spent years building his own private MG museum which now attracts hundreds of visitors from across America every year.

For many of these enthusiasts, the Indianapolis meeting is almost a religious experience — even though it is 15 years since any MGs were exported to America.

During the golden age of the 1950s and 1960s, MG was at one time the most popular imported car in America and was driven by hundreds of thousands of college students as their daily transportation. But while the MGT series and the more modern MGA certainly proved to be useful moneyspinners, the company hit the jackpot when the MGB was launched. Remarkably, nearly 70 per cent of the 500,000 plus cars which were made went straight to the West Coast, and tens of thousands are still on the roads — many in original condition.

Although hardened enthusiasts display their cars at the countless shows that are held across America every year, the Indianapolis event was the first time that the owners of all the different MG models have come together for one huge celebration.

The event included the usual awards ceremonies for the best car of its type — but one car that did not feature was the new MGF. Even though it was launched in the UK last year and production has already

passed the 8,000 mark, there are no plans to export it to America, either this year or at any time in the future. To many Americans, this is not just a huge disappointment but a naive marketing strategy that is akin to an ice-cream seller ignoring the seaside trade or a pub deciding to stop selling beer.

"There are certainly many people in America who would buy the car," claims Dick Knudson, a former university professor and founder of the highly respected New England MGT Register.

Last year, he organised a concerted letter-writing protest among American enthusiasts to get the car sold there, but the bosses in Britain remained adamant the MGF will not cross the Atlantic. The effect of this, Knudson believes, is that a new generation of American sports car enthusiasts will be lost forever to the more in-tune Japanese and American manufacturers.

Of course, one of the major problems the company would have if they did re-enter the world's biggest car market is who would actually sell the MGF. Since the pound flopped in the currency markets a few years ago, there are no longer any Rover cars (apart from Land Rover) sold in America and no established network of dealers.

But the company points to other reasons. "We are only geared for a maximum annual production of 20,000 cars," says Rover spokesman, Kevin Jones. He adds: "The US market is so huge that when we do go back, we want to go with a range of products and have all the necessary

back-up to make sure that the return will be a major success." Jones denies that the avoidance of the American market has anything to do with the manufacture of BMW's Z3 in South Carolina, a car not too dissimilar to the MGF. "The decision was taken in the UK before the two companies joined together," he says. But these words are of little comfort to the hundreds of American enthusiasts who gathered in Indianapolis. Many would consider remortgaging their homes just to drive the new car, let alone actually own one.

Alas it seems they may have to be content with the consolation that the hot-weather testing of the car took place in Phoenix, Arizona. One enthusiast remarked this was like offering a child a handful of luxury toffees, but then covering its mouth with tape so it would never have a chance to enjoy the taste.

**MG was the most popular US car import**



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### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### MOT price hike

Fees for the MOT test go up on August 1. The maximum for cars and light vans rises from £27.38 to £28.66 and for solo motorcycles from £11.52 to £11.90. The increases take account of inflation and also the cost to testing stations of buying gas analyser equipment needed to monitor emissions from vehicles fitted with a catalyst, according to the Department of Transport.

The department sets maximum fees but testing stations are free to charge less if they wish. "The MOT test continues to offer motorists good value for money. It represents a thorough once-a-year check that their vehicle is in a safe and environmentally acceptable condition," says Steven Norris, Road Safety Minister.

#### French open

Green Cards are no longer necessary for AA Insurance customers travelling in Europe. This follows confirmation from the French Tour-

ist office that British motorists will no longer be required to produce cards. Green cards have not been a legal requirement in EU countries for some time and British policies meet the legal minimum requirement in EU countries. However reports of British drivers being stopped in France had deterred the AA from dispensing with the cards. The French reassurance means they will no longer be necessary.

#### Miles per gallop

A cavalcade celebrating 100 years of the British motor car has been organised by the Brooklands Society as part of Ascot Charity Race Day at the Berkshire track next Friday. It will feature a range of vehicles stretching from an 1897 Daimler to a new Aston Martin DB7 Volante. Rare machines such as a Jowett, a Crossley and a Squire will also appear. Proceeds will be devoted to the King George's Fund for Sailors. The Missions to Seamen and the Royal Life Saving Society. Tickets: 01344 22211.

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